"Quality of Life is our Goal"

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Anchorage, AK 99508

(800) 262-8055 279-8055 (Fax) 279-8054

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A quiet, confidential, knowledgeable environment to get prescription medications and information. Information available on HIV/AIDS medications, clinical trials, parallel tract drug protocols, patient assistance programs and insurance billing.

QUESTIONS WELCOME.
On-Going Calendar Items

SUNDAYS
A Metropolitan Community Church Services, 1:30pm Sunday at Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 2311 Pembroke.
A Gay, Joyous & Free, 7pm, AA Meeting, 1231 W. 27th Ave.
F PFLAG, third Sunday, 4-5:30pm, Into the Woods Bookstore.
F Homophonic Radio, KSUA 91.5

MONDAYS
A Gay Bar, Anchorage, noon, Second Monday, 845 K St., 279-5001.
A Gay, Joyous & Free, 7pm, AA Meeting, 1231 W. 27th Ave.
A Over 50's. Lesbian book club 2nd and 4th from 7-9 pm (see club notes).

TUESDAYS
A Righteous Babes Radio Show, 7pm, KRUA-FM 88.1.
A SLAA (Sex & Love Addicts Anonymous), 8pm, 566-1133.

WEDNESDAYS
A Free HIV TEST at 4A's, 2pm - 4pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste. 102, Lori 263-2050.
A IMRU2 5:30-7:30 pm at 4A's 1057 W Fireweed #102, 566-4678 (566-IMRU).
J Social at Summit Lounge, after work.
J "Women's Prerogative," KTOO-FM, Wednesdays, 9pm-10pm.
A La Cage aux Wave (drag show), 10pm, The Wave, $3 cover.
A PFLAG, 2nd Wednesday, 7-9 pm, AUUF, 32nd and Turnagain St.

THURSDAYS
A SLAA (Sex & Love Addicts Anonymous), 5:30pm, Unitarian Church, 566-1133.
A Friends and Family Support Group, 6:30pm, call 4As, 263-2050.
A Gay, Joyous & Free, 7pm, AA Meeting, 1231 W. 27th Ave.
A Country Dancing at the Wave, 8pm, taught by Patty, 61-9283.
A Club, Russian Club, alternating weeks at Into xds Bookstore.
A's Forum, 2nd Thursday, 7pm, 338-9184.

FRIDAYS
A Lunch, 4A's, noon-1pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste. 102, Lori 263-2050. Everyone invited - HIV, volunteers and friends.
A Midnight Suns Gay AA Meeting, 7:30pm-9pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave.
A Identity Potluck fourth Friday at AUUF.

SATURDAYS
A SLAA (Sex & Love Addicts Anonymous), 12 noon, Unitarian Church, 566-1133.
A The Family (UAA), 6pm (excluding school holidays). UAA Arts Bldg. Rm 121, Harry O'Brien at 786-7644.
A Women's Two Step, 1st Saturday, 7:30pm, Pioneer Schoolhouse.
J PFLAG First Saturday of each month, 10:30 to 12:30 in the Mendenhall Library conference room.

Legend
A Anchorage
F Fairbanks
J Juneau

A Russian couple was walking down the street in Moscow one night when the man felt a drop hit his nose.
"I think it's raining", he said to his wife.
"No, that felt more like snow to me", she replied.
"No, I'm sure it was just rain, he said".
Well, as these things go, they were about to have a major argument about whether it was raining or snowing. Just then they saw a minor communist party official walking toward them.
"Let's not fight about it", the man said, "Let's ask Comrade Rudolph whether it's officially raining or snowing".
As the official approached, the man said, "Tell us, Comrade Rudolph, is it officially raining or snowing?".
"It's raining, of course", he replied, and walked on.
But the woman insisted, "I know that it felt like snow!"
The man quietly replied, "Rudolph the Red knows rain, dear!"

Aussie Senate nixes gay tax returns
Australia's Senate has voted down an amendment to the Income Tax Assessment Act that would have recognized same-sex couples. Australian Council for Lesbian and Gay Rights spokesperson Rodney Croome accused senators of hypocrisy, pointing out that their own same-sex partners are recognized for superannuation and travel allowances.
Cyberlust

Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association (4As): <http://www.alaskanaids.org>
AGLA: AK Gay & Lesbian Assoc. <bfmp@aurora.alaska.edu>
Binkley, Andy: <abinkley@mosquitonet.com>
Burleson, Laura: Gay Rights activist, Chair of Equal of Fairbanks: <lheb@aurora.alaska.edu>
Capri Cinema, Rand Thorseney: <gehbe91@prodigy.com>
Carlisle, Karen: Writer, feminist, teacher, activist: <kmc@getonthe.net>
Carter, Dan: Gay activist, Dandelion, Equal: <alaskadan@aol.com>
Cheney B&B: <Cheneybb@alaska.net>
Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere (COLAGE): <http://www.colage.com>
Childs, Lucian: graphic artist <lucian@alaska.com.com> <http://www.alaska.com/gfx/>
Crabtree, Phil, B&B, Fairbanks, <crabtreehome@geocities.com>, <http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/4169>
Craciun, Jean: market research, Pride Conference: <jcraciun@craciun.alaska.net>
Fairbanks Gay & Lesbian Community page: website <http://www.mosquitonet.com/~qnetak> e-mail <qnetak@mosquitonet.com>
Fauth, Terry: <akbear@mosquitonet.com>
Freedman, F. Kenneth: Gay/Lesbian activist, <fken@servcom.com>
Gay & Lesbian National Hotline: <http://www.glnh.org>
GLAAD: Gays and the media <http://www.glaad.org>
Haase, Michael: <michaelh@servcom.com>
Hillman, Fred: <fhillman@alaska.net>
Hillman, Bronwyn: <bronwyn@alaska.net>
IAA - Interior AIDS Assoc. Fairbanks <iaa@polarnet.com> website: <http://www.2polarnet.com/~iaa>
Identity: <http://www.ptialaska.net/~seagla/identity.htm>
Imperial Court of All Alaska (ICOAA): see link at <http://www.mosquitonet.com/~qnetak>
Into The Woods Bookshop: Connie, Fairbanks, AK, e-mail <woods@polarnet.com> website <http://www.2polarnet.com/~woods>
Kauzlarek, Rick: alaskaRick@geocities.com
Kohout, Jen: <jenkohout@aol.com>
KT Creative: <ktcreate@alaska.net>
Last Frontier Men’s Club: see club listing <FMC@Micromet.net>
Naff, Don: <donnaff@alaska.net>
Out North: <outnorth@artswire.org>
PFLAG: Bks. website <http://www.mosquitonet.com/~pflag> e-mail <pflag@mosquitonet.com.ye>
Pinney, Pete: UAF Instructor and owner of Alta’s B & B; <pfpp@aurora.alaska.edu>
Rachal, Tom: <TomAndAl@alaska.net>
SEAGLA: <http://www.ptialaska.net/~seagla>
Severson, Kim: Entertainment editor Anchorage Daily News, board of Nat’l Lea & Gay Journalists Assn: <kserverson@pop.adn.com>
Shanti of Juneau: <http://www.ptialaska.net/~shanti>
Soule, Barbara & Bonham, Candy: <souleandy@alaska.net>
Thorsley, Randi: Capri Cinema: <filmgallery@aol.com>
Triangle Tours, Lesbian/Gay travel <triangle@servcom.com>
Vann, Beth: <brccles@elf.blc.ac.ye>
Walton, Eric: @jklacht, @kOutdoors, PFLAG, EQUAL etc.: <fbew@aurora.alaska.edu>
Wave, The: Lesbian/Gay bar & coffee house: <wave@alaska.net>
Wockner, Rex: San Diego-based journalist, LesBiGay info (Internet): <rwockner@netcom.com>
Youth site: <http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/B_Hartman3>

Calendar

December

Sunday, 21:
P PFLAG, 4-5:30pm, Into The Woods Bookstore & Coffeehouse.

Friday, 26:
A Identity Potluck, 6:30pm, AUUF: Christmas carols, horse-drawn carriage rides, rainbow afghan raffle.

Wednesday, 31:
A Preview of Under 30, 7pm, Out North, 279-8200.
J Dinner at the Glory Hole. Sudie, 586-2410 for info.
J Dance, 9:30pm to 1:00am. Location TBA. 586-3402 for info.

January

Saturday, 3:
A Women’s Two Step, 7:30-11pm, Pioneer Schoolhouse. Donations cheerfully accepted.

Sunday, 4:
J PFLAG, 10:30am, Mendenhall library.

Wednesday, 14:
A PFLAG, 7-9pm, AUUF.

Pacific Exchange invests in its employees domestic partners

GLAAD Press Release

On December 1, the Pacific Exchange (PCX) became the first U.S. stock exchange to offer domestic partner benefits when it announced it would include same-sex and opposite sex domestic partners of employees in its benefits plan beginning in 1998. “We have a diversified work force in San Francisco and Los Angeles, and we wanted to make sure all our employees had the coverage they needed,” said Viola Lucero, PCX vice president of Human Resources. “It’s the right thing to do, and it strengthens our abilities to attract and retain a talented work force.” PCX joins the growing ranks of companies offering such benefits, including a number of traditionally conservative companies, including IBM, American Express and Time-Warner.

The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) promotes fair, accurate, and inclusive representation as a means of challenging discrimination based on sexual orientation or identity.
Club Notes...continued

AUUUF. Membership is confidential. We welcome educators and non-educator allies who are interested in the problems of GLBT youth in our public schools. For more information call Fred, 562-7161.

Identity, Inc. Anchorage

founded to improve self and community awareness, understanding, and acceptance of the expression of individual sexual identities, in order to promote positive attitudes and healthful ways of living for all people within the State of Alaska. Identity builds bridges between different segments of the lesbian and gay communities as well as bridges between the gay/lesbian and non-gay/non-lesbian communities. Potluck Social is held on the 4th Friday of each month at the Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 3201 Turnagain Street. Doors open at 6:30pm; dinner at 7:00pm; program at 7:30pm. See the Calendar for program title.

Imperial Court of All Alaska (ICOAA), Anchorage

is a social and support group that contributes to our community by being active in many ways: we plan and present wonderful entertainment, and donate money to needy organizations for them to carry out their important goals. See Calendar for this month's planned activities, or contact Empress Rosie Rotton at 563-2110. Or write P.O. Box 104023, Anchorage 99510-4023.

IMRU2

Anchorage gay youth group meets Wednesdays 5:30-7:30 p.m. at 4A, 1057 West Fireweed Lane, Suite 102.

566-IMRU

Interior AIDS Association (IAA) Fairbanks

offers medical and dental program assistance, “buddies” (volunteers who help HIV & People Living With AIDS), meal delivery food supplement program, a lending library and counseling support. If you’re interested in volunteering or need assistance, please call the IAA in Fairbanks at 452-4222.

Lamb of God Metropolitan Community Church (MCC)

Anchorage holds Sunday services at 1:30pm at Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 2311 Pembroke, 258-5266.

Last Frontier Men’s Club, Anchorage

a members-only club for the Leather/Bear communities of Alaska. Meetings 3rd Thursday of each month, 6:00pm at the Raven; campouts & weekend trips, too. Write T.L.F.M.C., P.O. Box 202054, Anchorage, AK 99520-2054.

Mt. McKinley (Non-Ascent) Club, Anchorage

is a social group open to anyone gay, lesbian, or ally. Look for upcoming events in the Calendar, or call Eric at 277-3236.

Northern Exposure Bowling League, Anchorage

each Sunday afternoon at 4:00pm, Park Lanes. 561-8744 (Bob).

OPAL is a lesbian social organization with an open membership. OPAL holds monthly potlucks with different themes on the third Sunday of the month. Please call Roby at 562-3953 for more information.

Over 50’s Club

a lesbian book and support group. Meets second and fourth Mondays, 7-9 pm. Videos and books will be a part of this positive energy discussion group. For location, call Rose Beth (337-6779) or Lorraine (276-3337).

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG)
of Juneau meets the 1st Saturday of every month at 10:30am at Mendenhall Mall Library. Phone 907-463-4203.

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG)
of Southcentral Alaska holds meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of every month. For information call Sylvia at 562-4992 or Fred at 562-7161.

Queer Round Table (QRT)

Call to list your club’s events and hear about other club events. Barb (fh) 274-4984 or (W) 564-5818

Shanti of Juneau

offers support services to persons with HIV/AIDS and their loved ones, as well as offering comprehensive HIV prevention and educational information. Offices: 222 Seward, Suite 200; mail: P.O. Box 22655, Juneau, AK 99802-2655. 907-463-5665, 1-800-478-AIDS (2437).

SLAA (Sex & Love Addicts Anonymous) Anchorage

12-step meeting; Tues., Thurs., Sat. Check ongoing calendar for times and locations. 566-1133

Southeast Alaska Gay & Lesbian Alliance (SEAGLA)

a non-profit volunteer organization that provides a support network for lesbian and gay people in Southeast Alaska. Publishes monthly newsletter Perspective. P.O. Box 21542, Juneau, AK 99802-1452. Phone 586-GAYS

Support Group, Soldotna

group for people with HIV or AIDS or families or friends. Call Jan at 907-262-2589.

100,000 at Manchester Mardi Gras

Over 100,000 people turned out for Manchester, England’s gay Mardi Gras in late August, reported London’s The Pink Paper. The weekend included a parade, a king and queen contest, a festival and a street party.

FOUR A’S FOOD BANK

ITEMS OF NEED

- Items for newborns and toddlers:
  - Everything from food to clothing to diapers

Food items:
- fruit juices
- tuna
- canned fruits
- canned meats
- canned soups
- rice
- pasta
- tomato sauce
- peanut butter
- beans
- canned vegetables

Personal items:
- soap
- toothpaste
- toothbrushes
- deodorant
- mouthwash
- shampoo
- toilet paper
Directory

Spiritual...

(GL) Southeast Alaska Gay & Lesbian Alliance (SEAGLA), (Juneau) 907-586-4297

Spiritual:
(A) Aquarian Foundation, Rev. Patricia Brown, 349-9955
(A) Anchorage Church of Religious Science, Center for Positive Living, Rev. Nancie Sweeney, 258-0010
(A) Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Art, 248-3737 (see ad)
(A) Church of the Covenant (Matanuska Valley), Pastor Howard Bess, 746-1089
(A) Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 2311 Pembroke, Anchorage, welcomes all regardless of orientation. 333-5253
(A) Lamb of God Metropolitan Community Church, 258-5266
(A) St. James the Fisherman Episcopal Church (Kodiak), Fr. Paul, 486-5276
(A) Unity Church of Anchorage, 346-2824

Student Organizations:
(G/L) Alaskan Gay and Lesbian Association (AGL), Fairbanks, 907-479-7348 (see Club Notes)

Tattoos:
(A) Bitchin Tats, Kathy, 561-3653

Travel:
(G) Apollo Travel Agency, Bob, 561-0661 (see ad)
(G) Triangle Tours, Greg, 276-2770 or 888-899-2770

Club Notes

AA
Gay Joyous & Free, see on-going calendar.
Midnight Suns, see on-going calendar.

Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association (4As) Anchorage
offers HIV testing Wednesday afternoons (2:00-4:00pm) at their offices, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste. 102. Friday at noon is a luncheon for People With HIV and AIDS. We are always looking for groups willing to donate and provide these meals. If you are interested in helping with the luncheons, volunteering with the 4As, or need information, please call the 4As at 263-2050.

Alaska Gay and Lesbian Association of Fairbanks (AGLA)
a UAF Student Organization, has regular meetings open to gays, lesbians and allies, 1st and 3rd Friday. For further information about meeting time and place, contact Matthew at 907-474-6666, ext. 3355.

Anchorage Garden Buddies (AGB)
a social group for gay men looking for an alternative to the “bar scene.” For next meeting time and place or to get on the mailing list, call 272-5608

Anchorage Women’s Political Caucus
for lesbians and non-lesbians, meets 7:00pm at Elmer’s Restaurant, New Seward & Fireweed, on the first Wednesday of every month.

Aquarian Foundation
services Wednesday 8:00pm and Sunday 11:00am, 8500 LaViento Drive, 349-9955.

Bruin Brotherhood of Alaska (Levi/Leather/Bear)
1441 E. 12th, #2, 99501 Contact Dan at 258-2629 or 276-6947. Meets the third Saturday at 7 pm.

EQUAL, Inc. Anchorage
EQUAL provides education and information about political issues to our community. EQUAL is not a political action committee and does not endorse candidates. For more information, call Dan Carter at 274-9226.

EQUAL, Inc. Fairbanks
purpose is to keep the community informed about political and legal events which have an impact on the gay and lesbian community, to educate about community issues, to organize letter writing campaigns and other forms of political action, and to promote equal rights for all Alaskan citizens, regardless of actual or perceived sexual orientation. For more information about EQUAL, contact Laura Burleson at 907-479-7348 or e-mail FSLEB@aurora.alaska.edu

Fairbanks Gay Youth Group
Leave message on voice mail for info: 457-3524.

Fairbanks Radio Station
KSUA 91.5 “Homophobic Radio”, 4-6 p.m. Sundays

Feminist Sing-a-Long (women only), Anchorage
third Saturday of every month, 1741 Westview Circle; call Carol and Fran at 333-0871. Non-singers are more than welcome. 6:30 pm potluck, 7:30pm singing (from the KK—Thanks!)

Gay Bar, Anchorage
free legal question and answer sessions on issues of interest to lesbians and gays. Second Monday of every month, noon at 845 'K' St. 279-5001.

Gay/Lesbian Book Club
at Barnes and Noble on third Wednesday, 7-9 pm. Kim Meck, Community Relations Coordinator for B&N Hosts this discussion group.

GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network)
a national organization which has a local chapter in Anchorage. Meets the first Sunday each month, 1pm at

Continued on page 41
Directory

Health...

Counseling:
(A) Anchorage Center for Families, 276-4994 (handles all kinds of family issues.)
(A) Barton Sloan, LCSW, 563-5765
(A) Connie, 562-1826
(G) F. Ken Freedman, 566-1708 (see ad)
(A) Jann, 248-9408
(A) Marion, 562-0012
(A) Psychological Services Center, 786-1795
(A) S.T.A.R. (Standing Together Against Rape), 276-7279
(L) Tess, Alternative Counseling, 562-8281
(A) Tom Gormley, ANP, 565-4014

Electrolysis:
(L) Gentle Touch Electrolysis Clinic, Bronwyn, 258-6608

Dental Care:
(A) Ward Hulbert, DDS, 248-0022

Family Medicine:
(A) Dr. Phyllis T. Dunckel, 257-4600

Naturopathic:
(A) Hope, 561-2330

Obstetrics & Gynecology:
(A) Jane, 563-5151
(L) Mary Ross, Nurse Practitioner, 563-7228

Reiki/Counseling:
(G) Rick, 333-9640
(A) Joyce, CMT, 562-1916
(L) Spirit Services, Barbara, 274-0899

Helpline:
(G/L) Anchorage Identity Helpline, 258-4777 (see ad)
(G/L) Fairbanks Lesbian/Gay Line, 907-458-8288
(G/L) Open Door Youthline, 456-GLBY
(G/L) Gay & Lesbian National Hotline, 1-888-843-4564
(G/L) Juneau, SEAGLA, 586-GAYS

Home Maintenance & Repair:
Carpet & Linoleum Installation:
(A) Big Bob's, Mark, 561-2121

Floors & Tile:
(A) Quality Floors, Bob & Ruth, 248-3900

Electrical:
(G) The Electric Doctor, Bob, 561-2225

House Cleaning:
(L) Connie’s House Cleaning Service, Connie, 276-3147
(A) Green Valley Cleaning, Tara, 345-4657
(G) Silver Spoon Cleaning, Brent, 258-0828
(A) Sweeping Lady, Janet, 276-7608

Odd Jobs:
(L) Deb, 275-3018

(A) Service with a Smile, Liz, 274-5290

Kites, Games, Banners, Puzzles:
(A) Northwind Kites, Pat, 279-4386

Legal:
(L) Mendel & Associates, Allison, 279-5001 (see ad)
(L) Rhodes, Phyllis; Mediator, 346-2217
(A) Short, Sylvia, 562-4992 (see ad)

Media:
(L) NLGJA (National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association), Kim, Alaska coordinator and board member, 277-2704

Music/Instruments:
(A) Oldtime Music Company, Marge, 561-6622 (see ad)

Native Arts/Culture:
(A) Moon Dancer Arts, Rosemary (Wasilla), 373-5353

Newsletters/Newspapers:
(A) Alaska Women Speak, Mary Lee, 696-0924
(A) Anchorage Press, Nick, 561-7737 (see ad)
(L) Klondyke Kontakt (Alaska Women’s Cultural Center), 277-9763

...Social/Educational

(GLA) NorthView (Identity), 258-4777
(GL) Perspective (SEAGLA in Juneau), 586-4297

Pet Care & Veterinarian:
(A) Dr. Ginny, 345-1515
(L) Dr. Vicki, 345-1515
(A) Dr. Jean Battig (Fairbanks) 452-6055

Photography:
(L) Alaska Photographic & Supply, Linda, 345-5434
(G) Fotos by Frank, Frank, 562-3084 (see ad)

Political:
(A) Alaskans Concerned About Latin America (ACALA), Ruth, 333-1190
(A) Anchorage Women’s Political Caucus, contact Janet Mitson, 688-0116

(G/L) Equal, Inc., 274-9226
(G/L) Log Cabin Republicans, (503) 642-7292

Printing, Electronic Graphics:
(A) Alaska Micro Associates, Rebecca, 337-0460
(A) SOS Printing, Val, 562-1678
(A) TimeFrame, 562-3822 (see ad)

Support Groups:
(G) Ability Design Associates, Doran, 562-9575
(GL) GLSEN, Fred, 562-7161
(G) L.M.R.U.2 (Youth Group), 566-4678
(A) PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, Anchorage), Sylvia 562-4992, Fred 562-7161 (see ad)
(A) PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, Fairbanks), Mary Jo, 907-459-8985
(A) PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, Juneau), 907-463-4203

AA:
(G/L) Gay, Joyous and Free, see Calendar
(G/L) Midnight Suns, see Calendar

Deaf Support:
(A) Interpreter Referral Line, 277-3323 voice, 277-0735 TTY
(A) Deaf Rehabilitation Serv., 277-3456 voice, 258-2232 TTY

Recreation:
(L) Alaska Women of the Wilderness, Rachel, 688-2226
(L) Equinox Wilderness Expeditions, Karen, voice mail: 274-9087
(A) Flies by Ilene (Eagle River), 907-694-6946
(A) Knik Glacier Tours; Palmer, Alaska; Tom Faussett, 745-1577 (see ad)
(L) McKinley Air Service, Lee Ann & Keli, 800-564-1765
(L) Puffin Family Charters, Leslie, 278-3346 (see ad)
(G) Roy's Bikes, Roy, 333-8221
(A) Stan Stevens Cruises, P. O. Box 1297, Valdez, AK 99686, (907) 835-4731, (800) 992-1297.
(G) Triangle Tours, Greg, 276-2770, 888-899-2770 (see ad)
(A) Wild Iris Fishing and Sightseeing Charters (Valdez) Barb, 907-389-2725

Real Estate:
(G) Apollo Real Estate, Bob, 561-0661 (see ad)
(A) Bela Bodnar, RE/MAX, 244-4415 (see ad)
(L) Bronwyn Real Estate, 907-277-4744
(L) Century 21 (Missouri), Lucille, 417-745-6798 (w); 417-993-4302 (h)
(L) Dynamic Properties, Jill, 261-7663
(A) Roma Mason, Realtor, 242-8877 (cell) or 279-8877. (see ad)
(L) Waltraud Barron, 278-1981 (see ad)

Research:
(L) Cracut & Associates, 279-3982

Social/Educational:
(GL) Anchorage Garden Buddies, 272-5608
(GL) Imperial Court of All Alaska, Bob, 275-0046
The Directory

Advising...

This directory is our "yellow pages" and reference guide. It's free! The designations of (L)esbian, (G)ay and (A)lly indicate the business or service ownership. All people are welcome to call for further info. NOTE: in some instances you might encounter employees who are unaware of this Directory and its significance. Don’t be offended: enlighten. All listings are in Anchorage unless indicated. Contact: 258-4777

Advertising:
(L) KT Creative, Katie, 278-9174
(A) Alaskan AIDS Assistance Assoc., 263-2050 (see 4A's page)
(A) Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center (free HIV testing), Stephanie, 257-4637
(A) Interior AIDS Association (Fairbanks) 452-4222
(A) Pierce County AIDS Foundation (WA), 206-383-2565
(A) Shanti of Juneau, 907-463-5665, 1-800-478-AIDS (2437)
(A) S.T.O.P. AIDS Project, Gail Charles-Abbot, 278-5019

Apparel & Clothing:
(A) The Look, Kari, 278-5665

Automotive Repairs & Fuel:
(A) Courtney's, Linny, 562-1227 (see ad)
(B) Alaska Best Catering, Maurice, 338-1080, 337-1969
(G) Illusions, Brian, 277-9191
(G) Silver Spoon Cleaning & Catering, Brent, 258-0828

Bed & Breakfasts, Accommodations:
(G) Alaska's (Fairbanks), Pete, 907-389-2852 (see ad)
(A) Arctic Feather, Doug, 277-3862
(G) Aurora Winds, James/Bill, 345-2533
(G) Crabtree Guest House (Fairbanks), Phil/Bobby, 907-451-6501
(B) Fairbanks Hotel (Fairbanks) Doris Lundin, 888-329-4685
(B) Gallery Bed & Breakfast (Anchorage) Leslie Evans 274-2567
(B) Island Watch, Eileen (Homer), 907-235-2265 (see ad)
(A) Regina's, 276-4904
(L) Rose Beth's B&B (Anchorage) Rose Beth, 337-6779
(G/A) Sauerdough Lodging (Seward), Gordon, 907-224-8946.
(L) Wandering Women (Juneau) Carol/Susie 907-586-2410.

Books:
(A) Alaskana, Gene, 561-1340 (see ad)
(A) Cyruso's Books & Cafe, Sandy/Jerry, 274-2599
(A) Into The Woods Bookshop (Fairbanks), Connie, 907-479-7701

Churches:
see Spiritual

Computer Services:
Consultants, Graphic Design, & Desktop Publishing:
(G) Ability Design Associates, Doran, 562-9575
(A) Alaskan Support Consortium, Walter Erskine, 522-4275
(L) Angie, 337-0253
(B) Binky's Den, 205 4th Ave., Seward, Sue or Terri, 224-PAWS
(L) Communication Art, Catherine, 563-5492
(L) CDA Services, Waltraud, 276-6862
(G) Ekstatic RAM, Robert Iris, 522-4275
(G) Greg Parsons, 258-1339
(G) gra,f/x, Lucian, 561-9856
(L) Helleck & Assoc, Terry, 276-3869
(G) ServCom Alaska, Mark Mathis, 274-9472
(L) TechLink, LeMiel, 276-6862.

Supplies & Equipment:
(A) Frigid North, Tom, 561-4633 (see ad)

Training:
(G) Seven Treasures Computing, Don, 562-9496
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...Health
Year-end’s pace requires a closer look at finances

by Kathleen Madden

Whose year doesn’t end in an uproar? With holiday travel and parties, not to mention making a snowflake costume for the Winter Festival, most of us close out the year at a pace that’s fast and furious. And with the short-term spending demands (many of them well-intentioned) that come in November and December, long-term financial planning goes up the chimney as fast as Santa comes down.

The irony is that the end of the year is an ideal, often necessary, time to think about mid- to long-term personal finances. Many important matters related to personal finance culminate at year’s end. A careful year-end examination of monthly budgeting, annual tax planning and other considerations — even retirement funding — can well serve most families in the present and in the future.

**Everyday people**

Examining how you live day-to-day from a financial perspective is a worthwhile task. By year’s end, families that budget have some idea whether or not their annual guidelines for spending, saving and investing will be met. If not, a thorough evaluation of the family budget in December or January can help bring those categories into line, and a year-end assessment helps establish realistic monthly budgeting goals for the new year, too.

One key factor to look at would be how taxes and inflation might, or should, affect your monthly budget commitments. It’s important that your long-term investments keep pace with, or even surpass, those pressures.

Areas of potential elimination (or cutback, at least), such as non-deductible credit card debt, also are significant to monthly budgeting. On the more positive side, annual salary increases and bonuses, which often come on or near January 1, are equally important in monthly and annual financial calculations...but with an interesting twist.

Following the “out-of-sight, out-of-mind” principle, many families find it helpful to ignore the windfall of a year-end raise or bonus. If they can continue to live on an income like the one from the year just ending, these families have the supplementary funds from a raise or bonus automatically (often through a payroll deduction) invested or entered into a savings account. Anytime is a good time to save and invest. But if you can do it, you’ll likely find this method less painful than trying to start or increase a savings plan in the middle of the year.

**Thinking beyond the new year**

The end of the calendar brings a certain closure, but life goes on — and so do its financial obligations.

Securing funding for the children’s college is an ongoing issue for those with kids. Another mid- to long-term consideration that ought to be remembered is the need for insurance — life and disability — to further ensure that a family’s financial objectives across the board can be met...regardless of what happens. Taking stock at the end of the year in these financial areas makes great sense.

Topping the list of virtually every national poll about personal finance issues is retirement funding. Year’s end is a good time for wage-earners to think about serious questions relative to their retirement funding.

- First, do you have a retirement funding plan? Do you know how much money will be “enough” to meet your retirement needs?
- Are you maximizing your retirement plan at work? If not, how can this be achieved in the coming year?
- Are you wholly dependent on your company to provide retirement resources, or have you made at least some provisions to fund your retirement regardless of your current job status?

As for the latter, funding an IRA to the maximum allowable limit is a worthwhile option for many taxpayers. IRS rules dictate maximum allowable limits and the tax deductibility of IRAs, but most important, IRA contributions at any level, regardless of their deductibility, offer excellent retirement funding benefits as the investment grows tax-deferred.

“Ring out the old year, ring in a new... career?”

It’s not unusual for “life” or “life-style” changes to coincide with the beginning of a new year — everything from starting a diet or commencing an exercise program, to changing jobs...or even careers.

For those making a job or career shift, the future of accumulated retirement funds is a critically important consideration. Here the options are many, as are the accompanying IRS regulations, which can be highly complex.

The important thing to remember is that proactive, informed year-end financial planning, hard as it may be to fit into a hectic holiday schedule, can bring financial payoffs — in funding for retirement and other long-range concerns, as well as in managing daily living — into the New Year and beyond.

Kathleen Madden is a Financial Advisor for Waddell & Reed. The Anchorage Waddell & Reed office, located on the third floor of the Dimond Center, is one of 200 offices nationwide. The company has been in the financial services business for nearly 60 years. It offers a wide array of investment products and services, as well as a variety of insurance products. Waddell & Reed can be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.waddell.com>.

I don't see why anybody of the same sex or the opposite sex in this day and age needs to get married. I was old-fashioned in that I always thought that I had to get married. But that's passé now, so I don't have to do that anymore.”

— Elizabeth Taylor to POZ magazine, November issue.
The El Niño Blahs

by Jen Kohout

It's been raining off and on all day. Occasionally, the temperature at some stratospheric altitude dips and the rain turns to sleet. Then the sleet to snow. Big, wet flakes that melt on contact. The sky is pale gray with a dark blue band of gray across the western horizon. A foreboding backdrop to gray buildings and naked alder branches.

Cold and wet. All the more reason for me to pull my rocker closer to the set of plant lights buzzing on the south wall of the living room. November in Alaska. And I'm reduced to fighting with a tray of feeble looking geraniums for a few rays of artificial sunlight. Seasonal Affective Disorder at its ugliest.

Alaska, where the distinction between seasons is as clear as... well, night and day. I generally visit my parents in their suburban DC home at least once a year. Invariably, as my mother and I are examining banana bunches at the local Safeway, Mom will recognize someone from church. She'll steer me around the potato bin and past the romaine to be proudly introduced as her "Alaskan Daughter."

Nine times out of ten, what happens next depends on the season. March through October, the introduction will be met with a look of envy and a story about some relative who traveled to Alaska once and loved it. And Mr. or Mrs. Neighbor will add how much they've always wanted to go to Alaska and that when they retire, it will be the first thing they do.

If, however, it's winter, they will ask instead about the amount of sunlight falling on Anchorage this time of year. And they will shake their heads with amazement and relief when I explain that we get a whole five hours. Amazement at my apparent delusion that five hours of daylight coupled with lit ski trails is sufficient for any normal human being. And relief that they live where they do. Firmly planted on the 39th parallel in suburban DC.

I, however, will wander out to the parking lot dodging impatient yuppies in their spotless Saabs, thinking to myself how lucky I am to live in a place where the horizon is not littered with split levels and condominiums; where sitting in traffic several hours a day is not a regional pastime; and where impatient yuppies at least have mud on their Saabs.

After a week of waking at 7:15 am with the sun pouring into my bedroom window, I am not, however, thrilled about the prospect of returning to the winter darkness. When I first moved to Alaska, the short winter days were a novelty. It amazed me to watch the sun rise at 9:58, then 10:02, then... It didn't take long for the novelty to wear off. Along with my enthusiasm for watching the sun rise and set during my lunch hour.

Now, I am reduced to combating my winter-time malaise and irritability with bagels and artificial light. To supplement these photosynthetic enhancers, I rely on a generous dose of videos with happy endings, chewable Vitamin C tablets, potlucks, long ski outings, and trips to the Carrs salad bar where I can gaze at the brightly colored vegetables (that I don't want to eat because they're not carbohydrates) while I bathe in florescent light. If nothing else, winter in Alaska has taught me to be adaptable.

When none of my usual techniques work, I pull out all my pictures from the preceding summer and engage in my annual photo album organization project. The kitchen table disappears under stacks of green river valleys and women wearing jog bras. Reliving these warm-weather adventures invariably provides yet another reminder of why I live here. And, probably just as important, gives the geraniums a break.

Jen Kohout has recently come into dual possession of a south facing window. A development she anticipates will reduce her electricity bill considerably and make her fictional geraniums happy.

British Airways sponsors rainbow card

British Airways has signed a multi-year agreement to sponsor the gay Visa Rainbow Card. The airline joins Subaru in promoting the card, which makes donations to gay and lesbian causes.

British Airways also has launched promotions aimed at the gay travel market.
lary segment of gay urban men says more about the biographer than his subject.

Schmidgall redeems the book, however, by closing with a long section about Whitman and Oscar Wilde.

The two met twice and, despite their extreme differences of style, personal and literary, Wilde grasped Whitman’s significance as few others did. He wrote that the “chief value” of Whitman’s work lay “in its prophecy,” and called the elder poet “the herald of a new era.”

Whitman agreed with this assessment, writing that what he had hoped to produce in “Leaves of Grass” was “a poem which more familiarly addresses those who will, in future ages understand.” What he hoped that future ages would understand was the nature of his sexuality and its moral and creative significance.

Thanks to Schmidgall, Whitman’s message has now been received.

San Francisco Chronicle, 901 Mission St., San Francisco, CA, 94103; Fax 415-898-1107; e-mail chronletters@sfgate.com; webpage <http://www.sfgate.com>.

Air Force reiterates “zero tolerance” for unlawful discrimination

WASHINGTON — In one of her last acts as secretary of the Air Force, Sheila Widnall issued an anti-discrimination policy stating for the first time in writing that the Air Force would not discriminate against civilian employees based on sexual orientation, the Human Rights Campaign announced.

On October 29, Widnall issued a memorandum reiterating the Air Force’s equal opportunity policies, which she called “straightforward” — “zero tolerance for any kind of unlawful discrimination against military members or civilian employees based on color, national origin, race, religion or sex, and in the case of civilian employees, also age, sexual orientation or disabiling conditions.” Widnall retired from the Air Force at the end of October.

“As every worker knows, it is far more powerful when an employer is willing to place such policies in writing for all to see,” said David M. Smith, HRC’s senior strategist. “This is especially true of policies against sexual orientation discrimination because there is no federal law protecting people against this kind of unfairness.

“That Sheila Widnall issued this written policy as one of her final acts as secretary underscores her recognition of the importance of creating such a document.” The Navy has also established in writing that it will not discriminate against civilian employees based on sexual orientation.

In 1993, President Clinton interpreted an executive order issued by then-President Carter as protecting all federal workers from job discrimination based on sexual orientation. He instructed all Cabinet-level agencies to amend their non-discrimination policies to explicitly add sexual orientation.

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Decoding Walt Whitman's homoerotic writings

A Gay Life by Gary Schmidgall Dutton; 428 pages; $32.95

More than 100 years after his death, the exuberantly gay — in all senses of the word — Walt Whitman finally has a biographer who puts the poet's homosexuality where the poet himself placed it, at the front and center of his work and his life.

In contrast to earlier biographers, Schmidgall focuses on Whitman as "a gay man finding his voice, finding sex, finding love, finding friendship." In the process, Schmidgall has written an exciting biography that may permanently recast the terms of Whitman scholarship.

The core of Schmidgall's biography lies in the book's examination of Whitman's homosexuality and his love affairs. It was only in the mid-19th century that sodomy began to be regarded not simply as a sexual act but as a temperament. Whitman was a vigorous adherent of this view, Schmidgall shows. He clearly believed that homosexuality was a character trait, which he called "adhesiveness."

"Adhesiveness," Schmidgall notes, "referred in essence to any propensity for strong emotional friendship with another person of the same sex." That it also had a sexual component for Whitman is one of the themes of Schmidgall's book. Yet, the claims of earlier biographers that Whitman was either not gay or that his sexuality was incidental to his work are not simply the shrieks of homophobic panic. They are abetted, in part, by Whitman's ambiguous statements.

Coy and sometimes outlandish — like his claim to have fathered six illegitimate children — these statements illustrate another of Schmidgall's themes: Whitman was an inventor not only of modern homosexuality but also of the closet.

Schmidgall reads Whitman as the first gay American writer to celebrate, through his initial editions of The Leaves of Grass (1855, 1856, 1860), the "concealed but substantial life" of the homosexual demonmde of his time in highly erotic, albeit coded verse. For instance, of section 33 in "Song of Myself," in which the poet goes "afoot with my vision" and records, among other things, "he-festivals" and "bull-dances," a 19th century phrase for same-sex dances, Schmidgall writes, "(m)any of the haunts he mentions... must have been part of his own cruising life."

He conceives of Whitman as a lusty participant of this world, one who had numerous sexual that found their way into his poems, most notably the Calamus poems. In "Calmus 32," Whitman records the parting of two friends: "The one to remain hung on the other's neck and passionately kiss'd him."

Then, later in the poem, he challenges the reader to wonder why the poet would record this moment amid all "the vaunted glory and growth of the great city spread around me." Schmidgall's answer: Whitman's "own sexual instincts are thrilled at observing 'passionate relations' publicly and licitly displayed."

Having ventured forth so boldly in first three editions, Whitman spent the rest of his life busily rewriting poems, even editing his private journals, to disguise or omit references to same-sex love. His post-Civil War anointment as the good, gray poet was only one reason for his reticence, Schmidgall suggests. As many other gay men and women after him have learned, the announcement of one's homosexuality provokes an often hysterically hostile response. Whitman was no exception. In old age he grimly summed up the reaction to the more clearly homoerotic early editions of The Leaves of Grass with "I expected hell; I got it."

Whitman's sexual love for other men gave his work its passion. Once he veered away from that, he tended to produce windy rhetoric. As Schmidgall points out, drawing upon the poems and journals, Whitman's consciousness as a gay man is distinctly contemporary, whether he is describing his ardor for a lover, a chance encounter on the streets of Manhattan or his quasi-political vision of a "city of robust friends."

Schmidgall makes the inarguable case that Whitman is a precursor of certain aspects of contemporary gay life and ideology, advancing the notion, for example, that homosexual men constitute a true community existing within the larger society. His attempts to transform Whitman into a contemporary gay man are, however, less persuasive. It may have been true, as Schmidgall asserts, that Whitman engaged in casual sex in the parks and on the docks of New York, but to then hold Whitman up as a kind of patron saint of the sexual freneticism of a particu-
Salt Lake Tribune calls school gag order a "disgrace"

A federal lawsuit was filed by Utah P.E. teacher and mother of two Wendy Weaver against the Nebo School District. Weaver claims she was illegally fired as volleyball coach for being a lesbian, and that a district gag order violates her right to freedom of expression. The Salt Lake Tribune featured an editorial calling the antics of the district and school administrators a "disgrace."

In July, the Spanish Fork High School (SFHS) principal fired her as coach despite 18 years of service, including four state titles, after discovering she is a lesbian. The district told Weaver "not to make comments, announcements or statements to students, staff members or parents regarding your homosexual orientation or lifestyle," threatening that if she did, it "may jeopardize [her] job and be cause for termination."

The editorial begins, "Nebo School District and Spanish Fork High School administrators have given their students a model lesson in how not to treat a person with a sexual orientation different from the norm." It mentions that students of Weaver were generally perplexed by the actions of the alarmist adults, adding, "What could Nebo District and [SFHS] officials possibly have been thinking when they benched a successful coach for her sexual orientation and then compounded the matter with their bizarre gag order?...Her simple identity as a lesbian should be irrelevant to school administrators....[They] chose to judge her home life instead of her professional record, and they deserve all the opprobrium that derives from their shameful actions. They should rescind their cruel gag order and reinstate Weaver as the coach of next year's volleyball team."

Serving as a textbook example of the need for legal protections against workplace discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, Weaver's case also highlights the particular difficulties lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender educators face at the hands of ignorant or outright bigoted officials. The Tribune's stand in a conservative and often intolerant state is both rational and courageous.

Please commend the Salt Lake Tribune for their impassioned and well-reasoned opposition to anti-gay workplace discrimination. Contact: James E. Shelledy, editor, Salt Lake Tribune, P.O. Box 867, Salt Lake City, UT 84110-0867, fax: (801) 237-2316, e-mail: <letters@mail.sltrib.com>

Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) is a national organization that promotes fair, accurate and inclusive representation as a means of challenging discrimination based on sexual orientation or identity.

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Each month it costs approximately $100 to mail this publication to our members. Our primary sources of revenue are membership fees and advertising income. As postal rates have escalated over the years, so have our mailing expenses. We're using the lowest rate structure available to non-profit organizations, but the costs continue to increase. If you have the ability to donate the cost of mailing a complete issue of NorthView, we would like to speak with you about it. Or, if this is more than your checking account permits, why not contact one or more friends to see if a sharing of the expense can be worked out. You'll find we are more than willing to work with you in whatever configuration is best.

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If this is something you (or someone you know) are interested in doing, please contact Ruth at 563-1324, Tom at 333-7504 or Shirley at 338-3708.
Editor's Note: This is the second part of a two-part article by Ron. The first part appeared in the November Northview.

I've had to search people's apartments, homes, and cars before. But I hadn't realized how demeaning it can be to have uniformed strangers pawing through your clothing, tax files, and even pulling the cereal box plastic liner out—looking for a non-existent weapon. I was getting furious, while Kelvin was calmly sitting on the curb catching up on his journal; border searches were apparently commonplace traveling through Asian countries for him. Suddenly that fury turned to embarrassment, as the officers found my stash of gay porn videos.

Of course I knew they were there, but I hadn't thought there would be a concern. Were those boys all "of age" my interrogators wanted to know? This could be a serious offense, Mr. NY Policeman! Insisting on taking the tapes inside the station to view them for content (yeah, sure), the goon squad split up. The officials who continued to search my belongings were threatening to keep me there all night unless I cooperated and told them where the guns were. "We'll take the tires off the rims", they promised. Finally, after a call back to my patrol partner in New York as a character witness, we were released. Videos were handed back to me with a smirk, and we were left to re-pack my worldly possessions that had been left strewn across the garage floor. Truly a memorable occasion.

With a sigh, and feeling like criminals, we were headed toward our first of many Canadian sunsets. The bed in our little hotel room in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan was welcome, even with those ghastly orange curtains and towels. The next morning was bright and sunny, and we happily headed west 425 miles for a diversion into Calgary. The Black Orchid Bed & Breakfast, owned by a trio of gay lovers, was our major extravagance on the trip, and was appreciated and deserved. We relaxed in the outdoor hot-tub, and soon were in each other's arms in the antique bed of our plush room upstairs.

Passing through Alberta and British Columbia we were able to enjoy some of the most beautiful scenery that North America has to offer. Every day we were treated to visual encounters with moose, elk, bear, and Dall sheep. Mountains, glaciers, and waterfalls were everywhere along the journey. Looking like typical tourists, with our expensive cameras and NY "liberty" license tags, we were greeted warmly where ever we went. By the eighth day, a clunking noise from the drivetrain made it obvious it wasn't going to go away. An overnight stay in Haines Junction, Yukon Territory, was wrought with worry about financial ruin and delay while we waited for a universal joint to be driven from civilization. But as fate would have it, a small machine shop in town had the appropriate part (for my 10-year old Nissan!) laying on a shelf, and we were on our way by the time Kelvin finished his breakfast.

August 19 brought us into Alaska. A delicious salmon bake dinner in Tok was Kelvin's introduction to "The Great Land." We had become good friends by then, but realized the logistics of our lives and goals would keep us from being more than friends. After having driven so many miles, I can't imagine doing it alone. And I appreciate how wonderful it was to have another gay man to cross North America with—no holding back on what I meant to say, or what I was feeling. Friendship, honesty, and a handsome smile...what a nice combination to wake up to so far from "home".

By late afternoon on the eleventh day we arrived in Anchorage, to the hospitality of Tom and Al's home on the east side of town. Within a few days I started my new career with an Alaska police department, and Kelvin headed home to New England. He experienced some depression, missing me (of course!) and the mountains and wildlife of Alaska. But I was too busy finding shelter, transferring my driver's license, getting those ugly gold plates for my truck, and learning that Anchorage street names sometimes change suddenly without warning.

I am now happy, living in the land of potluck meals and icy parking lots. The gay community I have met so far has been a super group of people, and my new more openly homosexual life has begun. Six months of fire-without-cause probation is half over at work, and I've gotten myself a pocket camera for those unexpected wildlife encounters...Mom wants to know what it's like here in the land of igloos and Eskimos, after all!

Kelvin and Ron on their way to Alaska.

"It is time for all Americans to recognize that the issues that face gays and lesbians in this country are not narrow, special interests, they are matters of basic human and civil rights."
— U.S. Vice President Al Gore at the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's annual awards ceremony Sept. 15.
Gay fathers raised as Mormons find fellowship

by Patty Henetz

Sunday morning, at the end of their weekend retreat, 14 men who grew up with the teachings of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints reaffirm their spiritual devotion and desire to be loving fathers.

One man reads a poem about faith in the here and now; others read their favorite verses from Mormon hymns. Then, in turn, they lay back in each other's arms to be lifted into the air in a gentle ritual of trust and acceptance.

Back home in their communities, the men will struggle for acceptance and connection. All are gay. Some have been excommunicated; others live in fear they will be discovered. They work to reconstruct their spirituality in the wake of what, for them, is a shattered religion. More than anything, the men do what they can to keep their children in their lives.

Between them, the men at the conference have 45 children and 10 grandchildren. "We have children who need and want desperately for us to be OK," said Terry Nani. "We came up in a belief system where worthiness is key." "We look for the evil in us," added Steve Dunn. "I don't want to start a theological debate. But fundamentally, we are OK. Knowing that brings peace back into our lives."

Nani, and Dunn, are members of a nationwide group called Gamofites — an abbreviation of "gay Mormon fathers." Some Gamofites are still married; some are just beginning to come to terms with their homosexuality; others have been openly gay for years. They maintain their friendships via the Internet and weekend retreats several times a year.

For some, especially those whose divorces were so hideous they have no idea where their children are, that contact is crucial.

The group has 120 dues-paying members nationwide. But they believe there are more than 30,000 married gay Mormon men in the United States.

While it is not a religious organization, some look at Gamofites as the kind of priesthood quorum they wish they could have. And many of the men at the retreat, held at the Homestead Resort in Midway, spoke with anger about the LDS Church.

"They damage families and throw away gay people," said Dunn. Dunn has been excommunicated. It would seem curious he, and others like him, would continue to identify with a church that has so firmly repudiated them.

Yet for all their anger, the core of their spirituality and Christian love is Mormon. They draw their fundamental values from Mormon teachings. Their families and friends are Mormon.

"When your entire culture is tied up with these beliefs, what choice do you have?" asked one man who declined to give his name.

When they are in the larger gay community, gay Mormon fathers can have difficulty relating to other gays who don't understand their roots; when they are in the Mormon community, they can't connect because they are gay.

Gamofite retreats give them a place where everyone gets it, where they can, at last, be themselves.

Some would like to be themselves within the Mormon church. And Dunn, who is still married and living with his wife, said that he spent virtually all of his adult life adhering to the Mormon teaching that homosexuality is chosen, and therefore changeable.

Dunn and his wife went through counseling aimed at turning him heterosexual. Such reparative therapy, Dunn believes, does more harm than good. The darkest, most miserable days of Dunn's life were when he contemplated not being allowed into the celestial kingdom, the highest level of a three-tiered afterlife reserved for worthy Mormons.

"But I don't want to go anywhere I can't have significant relationships," he said.

The LDS Church does allow gay people to be members. Like all Mormons, they are forbidden to have sexual relations outside marriage, which legally may only be between a man and woman. With extramarital sex cause for excommunication, many gays feel forced into a don't-ask-don't-tell situation.

Others believe the church's proscriptions against homosexuals require them to deny themselves their most fundamental desire: a loving, committed relationship with a life partner.

It is a conundrum Salt Lake City resident Geoffrey Loebel has discussed with several bishops, with varied results. "What I want most is to be in a committed relationship with a man," Loebel said. "When I told one bishop, he reminded me of the commitments I had already made in the temple, in my marriage. I wasn't asking for marriage. And I'm not asking the church to allow that. But I am angry because they don't want me to have a relationship. And that is a basic human need."

Loebel, who has four children and five grandchildren, said he came out to his family a year ago. "My kids all basically said, it doesn't matter, we still love you," Loebel said. "One son said, 'I love you. If the church excommunicates you, I will support the church's action. But you are still my dad.'"

That was Cory Nani's reaction when his father told him of his sexual orientation. Now 19, Cory Nani was 14 when his parents split up and his father came out. "My first reaction was, how can a guy with five kids be gay?" His second reaction was to do some research. After a lot of reading, he came to the conclusion that his father's orientation was his nature, not his choice.

Contact information is available at <gamofites@aol.com>.

Salt Lake Tribune, November 29, 1997
Past Out

Who was James Baldwin?

“I’ve loved a few men and I’ve loved a few women.” That’s how noted African-American writer James Baldwin once characterized his sexuality. Baldwin—who died ten years ago—never embraced the word “gay,” though he wrote four novels that stand at the forefront of gay literature.

Baldwin was born in Harlem in 1924 to a single mother. When he was three, she married a Pentecostal preacher. Religion was an early and powerful influence on Baldwin, who used it as an escape from his abusive stepfather. Baldwin became a preacher himself at the age of fourteen, and his first novel, Go Tell It on the Mountain (1953), fictionalized his youthful career as a popular and talented orator in a Harlem congregation.

The other strong influence on Baldwin’s life and writing was his sexual orientation, about which he expressed confusion at an early age. Friends and family members guessed his sexuality before Baldwin himself did. His younger brother told an interviewer after Baldwin became famous, “Honey, I knew when Jimmy was a little boy. Of course we just knew.”

Two of Baldwin’s early mentors were black gay men—the poet Countee Cullen, who taught him in high school; and Beauford Delaney, a painter whom Baldwin met in 1940. For many years Delaney was the most important person in Baldwin’s life. Delaney introduced him to music, art, and literature, as well as to the gay artistic circles of Manhattan. Whether or not he also introduced him to sex, Baldwin never said. After his informal education with Delaney, Baldwin noted, “Then I could really write.”

Living in Greenwich Village in the 1940s and working odd jobs, Baldwin launched his writing career, distinguishing himself as a critic and commentator for such publications as The Nation, Commentary, and The Partisan Review. To his disappointment, Baldwin found that even in the supposedly “bohemian” and “free-thinking” Village, the fact that he was both black and queer made him a frequent target of harassment. In 1948, sick of American racism and homophobia and with just $40 to his name, Baldwin moved to Paris to start over. “It wasn’t so much a matter of choosing France,” he later told an interviewer, “as it was a matter of getting out of America.”

In doing so, Baldwin joined a long line of expatriate queer American literati—such as Natalie Barney and Gertrude Stein—who found France a more welcoming home for their literary and personal pursuits.

In Paris, Baldwin met “all kinds of very different people,” including Lucien Happersberger, a young Swiss who became his great love and lifelong friend. “I starved in Paris for a while,” Baldwin wrote in later years, but he learned that he could find love—a goal he had found elusive in the United States. Happersberger, however, eager to sample the joys of gay sex with his friend, didn’t share Baldwin’s dream of romantic love between men.

Happersberger eventually married a woman and had a son whom he, ironically, named James.

Unrequited love makes good material, and the experience with Happersberger inspired Baldwin creatively. His second novel, Giovanni’s Room (1956), was a portrait of gay male love and abandonment that repulsed both his editor, who rejected the manuscript, and his agent, who advised him to burn it. It wasn’t that the novel was sexually explicit, which it wasn’t, but that Baldwin dared to consider a gay relationship an acceptable topic for fiction. The other shocker was that Baldwin’s narrator was white at a time when such racial lines were rarely crossed. The novel eventually found a publisher in England and then in the United States. Despite all the barriers, Giovanni’s Room was hailed by critics in this country as a masterpiece.

Baldwin went on to write three more novels with gay or bisexual main characters. Another Country (1961), a bestseller, put forth the credo of Baldwin’s life and career—that love can’t be restricted by race or gender. Tell Me How Long the Train’s Been Gone (1968) and Just Above My Head (1979) also depicted gay relationships in a complex, sympathetic, and unapologetic way, foreshadowing the work of today’s out gay novelists.

After his death from a stroke on December 1, 1987, Baldwin’s body was brought back to New York for a star-studded funeral attended by 5,000 people. A tribute from his family, printed in a pamphlet and distributed among the mourners, recalled Baldwin’s membership in “the society of the human heart.” That euphemism is evocative of some of the other non-labels the writer used for his sexuality during his lifetime. Despite the positive queer content of his novels, Baldwin consistently rejected both the labels “gay” and “bisexual.” He and his lovers, he told a reporter in 1984, were simply people who “moved in the world.” Though he lived long enough to witness the many gains of the gay liberation movement, he took no part in it and maintained until the end of his life that his sexuality was no one’s business but his own and God’s.

When you say yes to a moment, you say yes to all of existence. — Nietzsche
NEW YORK, Dec. 3 — The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD), the nation’s only lesbian and gay media advocacy group, announced its successful participation in the Internet Summit: Focus on Children and, while having reservations about certain policy issues, pledged to continue educating the technology industry, as well as developing resources for parents, educators and librarians.

GLAAD released its groundbreaking report “Access Denied: The Impact of Internet Filtering Software on the Lesbian & Gay Community” at the Summit to demonstrate its concerns about the use of filtering software and the consequences for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and allied users of the Internet. This report marks the first time a lesbian and gay national organization has produced research and analysis of such depth on the issue of Internet access.

While GLAAD appreciates the importance of beginning a dialogue around child safety on the Internet and recognizes and shares parents’ concerns, it is troubled by the overemphasis on the “technology toolbox” set forth by the Summit. As outlined in “Access Denied”, current technology is still imperfect and poses a threat to many educational, informational and support resources on the Internet.

“GLAAD challenges the industry to develop technology that will filter inappropriate materials on the Internet while leaving intact many resources that have accidentally been blocked through under-developed technology,” said Loren Javier, GLAAD’s Interactive Media Director. “GLAAD plans to continue offering itself as a resource to the various Internet filtering software manufacturers, and is encouraged to see that many in the industry are receptive.”

GLAAD also plans, in the spirit of public education outlined at the Summit, to form a coalition of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender parent, family, youth and education organizations to develop a list of “family-friendly” lesbian and gay Web sites that it will make available through GLAAD Online (<http://www.glaad.org/>).

“We commend GLAAD for their careful analysis of commercial filtering software, for surfacing serious issues, and for their constructive recommendations,” said Daniel Weitzner, Deputy Director of the Center for Democracy and Technology (CDT), a leading Internet civil liberties group in Washington, DC (<http://www.cdt.org/>). “In order to help assure that the goals of diversity and informed user choice among filters are met, CDT has announced the creation of the Filtering and Free Speech Forum and is pleased that GLAAD will participate in this important dialogue between civil libertarians, press and publishing organizations, Internet service providers, filtering companies, and child advocacy groups.”

“Gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender parents want a world without inappropriate images or speech for our children. However, we are concerned that the current versions of filtering software display a world without contrast, diversity or our families. The Internet Online Summit is a start, but future meetings must focus on solutions where all divergent views are included and the community is an active participant in the process,” said Jim Fagels on, a Summit participant and a director of the Gay & Lesbian Parents Coalition International (GLPCI) which represents the 25 million lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender parents, their partners and children in the United States.

“I hate television. I hate it as much as peanuts. But I can’t stop eating peanuts.”
— Orson Welles
Fairbanksan

Further North in the Heart of Alaska

by Terry A. Fauth

Holiday time is here, the most stressful time for some. Share your gift with others by calling on someone this season.

**PFLAG Fairbanks news**

**Workshop on Religious Communities and Homosexuality**

PFLAG Fairbanks, the Tanana Valley Conference of Churches, and SeaCom, Inc. will sponsor a forum, "Searching for Common Ground," to be held on Saturday, February 28, 1998. This day-long forum is for clergy, educators, parish leaders, counselors, health care professionals and anyone interested in the relationship between lesbians and gays and religious communities.

The focus of the forum is strongly on the biblical side of loving neighbors as we love ourselves and does not intend to prove anyone right or wrong. The forum does promise to challenge our assumptions and clarify our thinking.

At the forum, "The Gay Story and Testimony" will be presented by a local, six-member panel consisting of a lesbian, a gay, a lesbian or gay couple, and two others who have a lesbian or gay family member. "The Religious Perspectives" will be presented by a local, five-member panel made up of faith leaders from differing traditions. The audience response time, as well as lunch and break times, will provide a chance for questions, answers and friendly dialogue concerning conflicting views about human sexuality and religious faith.

"Understanding the Gay Population" will be presented by Howard Bess, an American Baptist minister from Palmer, Alaska. His book, *Pastor, I Am Gay*, has been confirmed by a wide variety of readers to be very helpful on this issue. Copies of his book will be available for purchase at the forum.

Ken Prunty, president of SeaCom from Anderson, Indiana, will be the moderator of this event. Ken has a MDiv, a MA in counseling and adult education and is an experienced consultant in faith and values development. As the father of a gay son, he has been highly involved in PFLAG for the last 14 years. We are fortunate to have him moderating this event for us following a similar event to be held for the Anchorage and Mat-Su Valley area the Saturday before.

*It's Elementary: Talking about Gay Issues in School*

About 120 people attended the showing of this video sponsored by PFLAG Fairbanks, AGLA (Alaska Gay and Lesbian Association) and GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network) in October. More local groups connected with education are seeing and discussing this video available at our local public library or through PFLAG Fairbanks.

**Into The Woods Bookshop & Coffeehouse**

Into The Woods (3560 College Road) will be closed on Christmas and New Year's Day, but is still operating otherwise until 12 midnight, and 3:00 a.m. Friday and Saturday nights. This is the place to kick back and find what you need, ever expanding with new ideas and activities.

Holiday Pop-up Gift Certificates are still available for book lovers: $100 certificates can be purchased for only $75!

For information on regular activities, or planning an event, please call Connie at 479-7701.

**Dolce Vita**

Dolce Vita [A Gallery Project] has opened at 1433 Noble Street, 2nd floor, south side of building. Hours are Saturday 11:00 to 5:00 and Wednesday 5:00 to 11:00. Come see a variety of displays and items for sale. Call 457-1590 for information.

**Q Net AK**

Alaska's Gay and Lesbian Information network is still going strong, working now on it's second year of service to the community. Fairbanks and Anchorage calendar of events, statewide resource links, gay friendly business, and homepage links are available at <http://www.mosquitonet.com/~qnetak>.

If you have a home page or business that you wish to be listed, please e-mail <qnetak@mosquitonet.com>.

Sydney Mardi Gras clamps down on straights

Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras has reduced the number of tickets members can purchase for the Mardi Gras and Sleaze Ball parties from five to three because the events have become overrun with heterosexuals who obtain tickets from their gay pals.

Mardi Gras President Bev Lange said she hopes members will think carefully about who they bring as guests. "You can purchase tickets for yourself and two close friends whom you know will add to the lesbian and gay atmosphere at the party," she told Melbourne Star Observer.
High court allows firing

WASHINGTON, Dec. — The Supreme Court let stand a ruling that San Francisco’s firing of a human rights commissioner for anti-gay remarks does not violate his constitutional free speech rights. The justices rejected an appeal by the Rev. Eugene Lumpkin, the pastor of a Baptist church who was removed from the city's Human Rights Commission in 1993 after he advocated violence against homosexuals.

While serving as commissioner, Lumpkin during news media interviews condemned homosexuality as a sin and quoted passages from the Bible prescribing death for practicing homosexuals. “It’s sad that people have AIDS and what have you, but it says right here in the scripture that the homosexual lifestyle is an abomination against God,” Lumpkin was quoted as saying in a June 26, 1993 article in the San Francisco Chronicle. After his firing, Lumpkin sued, alleging that his rights had been violated and seeking to be reinstated and to get compensatory damages.

In his Supreme Court appeal, Lumpkin argued that government employees may not be fired solely for public statements about their personal religious beliefs because, he said, “The right to religious belief and profession is absolute.” The high court denied his appeal without any comment or dissent.

The justices left intact a U.S. appeals court ruling that Lumpkin has a right to state his views, but that the First Amendment does not “assure him job security when he preached homophobia while serving as a city official.” The appeals court said the First Amendment does not require the city to tolerate members of the human rights commission who make statements contrary to the panel's goal of eliminating prejudice and discrimination.

“Lumpkin’s First Amendment rights may be trumped by important interests of the city he agreed to serve,” the appeals court concluded in upholding a federal judge’s ruling for the city.

San Francisco urged the Supreme Court to deny Lumpkin’s appeal, saying there was no need to review “legal conclusions that are so obviously correct.”

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such is LIFE!

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HO-HO-HOMOSEXUAL!
Something arrived in my mailbox recently which is so ridiculous that it would be laughable if it weren't so hateful. Exactly why it was sent to me is a mystery, although I sometimes request documents that sound “interesting” in order to know what's being printed by our foes. The eight-page document is titled the “Chief Counsel's Confidential Report on the Homosexual Agenda.”

Confidential. That otherwise simple word caught my attention before I even read what was written within the “report.” The message and motive became even clearer when I saw who the author was: Jay Alan Sekulow. For those unfamiliar with that name, Sekulow is the chief counsel for the American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ). The ACLJ works closely with the Christian Coalition and other ultra-conservative, quasi-political groups. Their expressed agenda is to see to it that Biblical principles, as interpreted by the directors of the various groups, become or remain the law of the land.

Sekulow’s report is quite frank and pulls no punches. The introduction sounds like the hateful words of Hitler talking about the Jews, or the propaganda put out by the Ku Klux Klan to degrade African-Americans: “The homosexual rights movement is like a runaway train racing down a mountain pass. For several decades, this train has been gaining steam, but it was not until the last few years that its speed began to increase exponentially. The train is still largely out of sight, so most people are unaware of the destruction headed their way. But if you listen closely, you can hear the train approaching. It is coming closer with each passing day. In this confidential report, I expose the homosexual agenda for what it is: a runaway train bent on destroying our communities. I want you to know where that train is headed, and what it will do to our society if it runs its course. I want you to be able to recognize it so you'll know when it comes to your community.”

There’s that “confidential” again. It’s interesting that Sekulow stresses the secretive nature of the report throughout. What credibility can a document have when the only people who see it are those like-minded folks who agree with its questionable tenets? It looks to me like he’s very worried about what “outsiders” would have to say about it. If the piece were credible, I’m sure they would have no trouble opening it up to the full scrutiny and judgment of the general public. Perhaps it’s this lack of credibility on the part of Sekulow and the rest of the far-right that has the “gay rights train” gaining so much steam.

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Join Identity, Inc. at its celebrated
Fourth Friday Potluck & Social. Bring
soup, salad, entrée, deviled eggs, hors
d'oeuvres, fruit, bread, dessert, chips, dip,
pizza, etc. Identity provides the drinks: tea,
coffee, punch. Admission is free, but we
cheerfully accept donations. Donations for
the 4As food bank are cheerfully accepted by
The Food Fairie; why not bring a couple of
cans or boxes of food with you.

Date: Friday, December 26
Time: 6:30 p.m. doors open/socialize;
7:00 p.m. dinner; 7:30 p.m.
announcements & program
Place: Anchorage Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship, 3201 Turnagain Street
Program: Christmas Caroling from a
horse-drawn wagon
Alaska has been cold on marriage rights, but a gay male couple is warming things up by applying the Hawaii strategy to their state constitution.

An Alaska gay male couple of 18 years argued in court November 14 that the 1996 state law restricting legal marriage to heterosexual pairs is unconstitutional. Jay Brause and Gene Dugan tried unsuccessfully to obtain a marriage license two years ago, and they say that denies them 115 rights reserved for married couples based on their gender and sexual orientation. Although Alaska does not prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation, the state constitution bans gender-based discrimination — the same type of provision that has been the basis for the Hawaii same-gender marriage case “Baehr v. Mikle.”

Assistant attorney general John Gagunie argued for the state that the issue was not a constitutional question, but even if it were to be considered such, the plaintiffs have no fundamental right to marriage. He downplayed their case as representing “at best, economic issues,” which he said they should deal with one law at a time — a most unlikely scenario for 115 statutes. To do otherwise appeared to him to be “throwing the baby out with the bath water.”

Judge Peter Michalski will issue a ruling at a later date. Although the marriage front has been relatively quiet lately in Alaska, it was a major hot potato around the time the heterosexuals-only marriage law was passed. A trial court ordered the state to provide spousal benefits to the partners of gay and lesbian government employees in a lawsuit brought by some University of Alaska workers — the only court in the U.S. to have issued such an order. The legislature acted to override the court, but the University of Alaska has an appeal pending before the state Supreme Court.

Longtime pillars of Anchorage’s lesbigay community, Dugan and Brause own the Out North Contemporary Art House. Out North is a participant in the Benton Foundation/National Endowment for the Arts “Open Studio: The Arts Online” project, and has been a frequent target of conservative criticism for the gay and otherwise controversial subject matter used in some of its plays and exhibits.

AIDS e-March begins

The e-March, the first electronic march on Washington, has begun. We are very excited about this project. The success of this march will be judged by the number of E-Marchers, so please help us spread the word. Won’t you participate in the e-March and let Washington know that America cares about AIDS. Tell your friends to “march.” We really need your help. Thank you. If you have any questions about the march, or if you would like more information, please call me at (202) 986-1300 extension 3020 or e-mail me at <lwhitman@AIDSAction.org>.

General Information about the e-March:
The Until It’s Over e-March will take place at the AIDS Action’s site on the World Wide Web at <http://www.aidsaction.org> and will last a full year ending on December 1 (World AIDS Day), 1998. Once connected to the site, Web users will be presented with a Virtual Mall, essentially a cartoonist’s depiction of the Washington Mall.

In addition to a digital marcher counter, the Virtual Mall will also have an e-sign link (allowing e-marchers to send e-mail to government leaders), information and merchandise booths, as well as a speaker’s podium where e-marchers can read speeches from government officials, community leaders and other concerned individuals.

The message of the e-March is only that AIDS is not over and that, until it is, America cares about bringing an end to the epidemic. With traditional media fueling misperception of an end to AIDS, the Until It’s Over e-March will send a message to our national leaders that it’s not over, ensuring AIDS as an issue in the next century, rather than a relic of this one.
Getting high and don’t know where it’s getting you?
written in consultation with Justin Richardson, MD, David McDowell, MD and Ron Winchell, MD for Gay Men’s Health Crisis, New York

The best studies out there on gay men’s sexual behavior have found that use of cocaine, poppers and Crystal has a significant link to unsafe sex. That doesn’t mean drugs cause unsafe sex - some people want to have that kind of sex in the first place, and use drugs to make it easier. But the fact remains: anal sex without a condom is the main way a gay man gets HIV. In addition to thinking about what a drug may do to your body, give some serious thought to what you want someone else to do or not to do. That’s hard enough for most of us when we’re stone cold sober, and it gets harder when you’re under the influence, so try to think safer sex through before you snort, sniff or swallow. GMHC (and the Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association) does not encourage or condone the use of any drugs. But if you are going to use, here are some things to think about.

WHAT GOES UP MUST COME DOWN
Before doing any drug, give some serious attention to how you’re going to feel afterwards as well as when you’re high. Both are part of the drug experience.

KNOW YOUR OWN MIND
What works for others may not work for you. If you’ve had anxiety attacks, a drug like K may seriously upset or disorient you. If you’re prone to paranoia, Crystal may play into your fears. If you feel depressed now, you’re really going to be bad coming down from Coke. And so on...

TAKE A BODY CHECK
Look yourself over, all over, before you start the party. Any cuts or sores that could let in HIV or other Sexually Transmitted Diseases will be harder to feel once you’re wasted.

AVOID SHOOTING
Except in the case of poppers, swallowing drugs is usually the safest, since it lets them work their way into your system gradually. Snorting is riskier, and shooting or smoking drugs rushes them to the brain, which can make them more addictive and put you at greater risk of overdose (not to mention HIV, Hepatitis and other complications of needle use.) If you do not use needles, get a clean sterile one and don’t share.

CONSIDER ANOTHER WAY
How do you hope to feel on the drug? Are there other times or ways you can get that feeling without getting high? Pursue those with the same focus it takes to find drugs.

MISSING SOMETHING?
If you’re on HIV medications, especially protease inhibitors, you’re not likely to stay on schedule if you’re tripping for eight hours. Missing doses makes the virus stronger.

REMEMBER HIV
Doing drugs brings down barriers. Plan ahead and don’t let a latex barrier - a condom that can save your life or someone else’s - get lost in the process.

DON’T BE AFRAID TO ASK FOR HELP
If you’re in trouble on a drug, find a friend or a friendly face. If you have questions about the ways you are combining drugs, alcohol and sex, you can make changes. By talking about the sex you are having, what it means to you, and what it may cost you, it is possible to make partying and sex safer.

Some Local Resources

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alcohols Anonymous</th>
<th>272-2312</th>
<th>Narcotics Anonymous</th>
<th>277-5483</th>
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<tr>
<td>Center for Drug Problems</td>
<td>276-6430</td>
<td>Salvation Army Cliterate Center</td>
<td>243-1181</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Dawn (women)</td>
<td>276-0528</td>
<td>Alaska North (AK Natives)</td>
<td>279-2627</td>
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Upcoming Events:
- Public Policy Forum - Senate Bill 17, Dec. 17, 7:00pm Cyrano’s, 4th & D St.
- AIDS 101 Training: Monday, Dec. 15, 5:30pm - 6:30pm @ 4 A’s
- Free HIV Testing Wednesdays 2:00 - 4:00pm @ 4 A’s
- Every Thursday “HIV Support Group” 7pm - 8pm @ 4 A’s
- Every Friday “Friday Lunch” for clients, friends and volunteers Noon @ 4 A’s
“Give me the knife,” she said.
But it was my idea, so I got to go first. With Deb acting as lookout, I knelt down and gave the van’s tires a poke with the blade. It went in, but not enough to do much damage. I pushed harder, and the steel sank into the rubber. My heart filled with joy as I imagined the hateful ranger attempting to do her dirty work, only to find herself stranded with a flat.

“Okay,” said Deb. “My turn.”
I handed her the knife and stood in front of her to screen her from the view of anyone who might happen to pass by. I heard a giggle as Deb did her own dirty work. Then came the “ouch.”

“What did you do?” I hissed.
“I cut myself a little,” said Deb.
I turned around. Deb had her finger in her mouth.
“It’s okay,” she said. “It’s just a nick.”
I looked at the blood on her shirt. And the blood on the knife. And the blade on the ground.
“Take your finger out of your mouth,” I said.
Deb pulled her finger out and held it up. The tip slumped to one side like a toppled wedding cake.
Get in the car,” I said.
We managed to sort of stop the bleeding by wrapping Deb’s hand in the towel we use to dry the dogs after they swim. Then we drove to the hospital.

“Do you realize that between us we are seventy-five years old and we just tried to slash the tires of an animal control truck?” said Deb seriously as we waited at a light.

“I know,” I said, still high on the thrill of being Naughty. “Wasn’t it great?”
We managed to make it to the hospital, where we encountered a number of different people while en route to getting Deb’s finger stitched up. Each one asked how she had cut herself, and each time she and I would look at each other and laugh uncontrollably.

“I think I’ll just put down here that you were cutting something and it slipped,” said the admitting nurse.

Six hours, seven stitches, and two hundred dollars later, we were back in the car.

“Well, I certainly learned something from this little escapade,” said Deb as we drove home.

“I’ll say,” I agreed, wondering if pretending to feel remorse for our felonious actions might still earn us a few small presents from Mr. Claus.

We looked at each other for a moment, and I knew Deb was thinking the same thing. “Next time we need to use a bigger knife,” we said in unison.
Santa, are you listening?

“If gay life meant just reproducing straight life, I’d rather become a monk.”
— Gay author Edmund White to The Advocate, September 16 issue.
My Queer Life

Naughty and nice

by Michael Thomas Ford

If my mother was right, I won't be getting any presents from Santa this year. Neither will my friend Deb. After yesterday, we're definitely on the Naughty list, and I don't think there's any going back.

I never thought I'd be in this position. I've always been decidedly in the Nice camp. I was one of those kids who never got in trouble at school, never raided the liquor cabinet, never snuck out of the house in the middle of the night to go joyriding. Even now I only exceed the speed limit when driving the dog to the vet after he's eaten an entire bag of M&Ms and needs his stomach pumped again. And Santa has always rewarded me accordingly.

But I don't think any of this will save me from a joyless Christmas. I will explain.

Beginning last spring, there has been a war going on at the park where I take my dog Roger for his morning swim and romp. It seems that a certain group of pedestrians and joggers decided that the dogs were creating a hazard. I won't bore you with the details. Suffice it to say that some stupid people with nothing better to do called the parks department and demanded that the canine menace be thwarted.

The result was that all year the park has been swarming with rangers. Rangers who like nothing better than to present us with tickets, which start at a simple $25 for an unleashed dog and escalate according to various additional fines, including roaming without a license ($15), barking ($10 per five minutes of yapping), and failure to produce a bag for picking up poop ($40). Since some of us break thirty or forty of the different rules on a daily basis, just taking the dog for a walk requires the use of American Express.

What makes it worse is that some of the rangers seem to take inordinate joy in enforcing the new doggie restrictions. One in particular has been a repeated nuisance, appearing at the most inopportune moments — like when Roger has just emerged from the off-limits pond and is indisputably dripping wet ($50 fine) — and swiftly dispensing her version of justice. A frightful vision indeed, this park harpy has been especially cruel to Deb, who one day was forced to run clear through the park while clutching her Brittany spaniel Gracie in her arms to avoid a nasty incident involving unpaid tickets and impoundment.

Which brings us to the fateful events of yesterday, when Deb and I were having a quiet little lunch at the local sandwich shop. We were just finishing up when who should walk in but this very same devil in far-too-snug blue polyester pants.

"Let's get out of here before she recognizes me," said Deb, who still isn't over the running incident.

Holding newspapers over our faces, we escaped through the back door and into the parking lot. That's when we noticed the animal control van sitting nearby.

"Let's see if there are any dogs in there we can liberate," said Deb, peering in the windows.

There were no dogs, but as I stared at the van my hatred of all it stood for boiled over. I reached into my pocket and felt there the Swiss Army knife I keep for various harmless purposes. Suddenly, an evil thought leapt unbidden into my heretofore pure mind. I wavered there on the edge between Naughty and Nice. And then I crossed over.

"We could slash the tires," I said, shocked that such words would come out of my mouth.

Deb looked at me. "That would be really awful," she said.

"The worst thing we've ever done," I said, kicking tentatively at the tires.
The Amazon Trail

This Old House

by Lee Lynch

"I'm beginning to think this house is haunted," Lover said last night.

"No!" I yelped in protest. Not because I find ghosts unnerving or anything.

The last straw came after a joyous and exhausting Thanksgiving celebration. Nothing looked better than closing the automatic garage door behind us and collapsing onto the nearest couch. But the garage door wouldn't close.

We'd bought an old — realtors would say "vintage" — house which had "vintage" heavy wooden sliding garage doors. Closed, we could walk right through the gaps. Skunk-sized slugs, rats, possum, and raccoons had free reign. Not to mention the free rain that blasted in at our cars, bikes and tools.

I was so pleased when the Automatic Door Installer arrived the first time. The second time. The third time. The fourth — we've waited and waited and... with cables and track dangling it's open house instead of open sesame. At least he saved us from holiday shopping Thanksgiving Friday.

This is a great house. Really. It's got lathe and plaster walls, except for where it doesn't. The foundation was poured with concrete when they knew how to mix concrete, except in spots where we have to weed the cracks.

Maybe we have mischievous gnomes — we've always had the key and sock-stealing variety.

A wood-burning furnace. How quaint, I thought, how ecological, how economical. How (Gasp! Choke!) smoky. There is a fan — and a fan-gnome inside whose idea of humor is imitating the sounds of an amateur speedway.

This furnace, which hasn't been airtight since Quentin Crisp came out, works on the same principle as a camp fire. Remember toasting marshmallows? How wind shifts into your face? That's what it's like in our house — without marshmallows, s'mores or even hot wiener for show for it.

We hired a company to convert us to electric heat. No problem. Except did we know that our house is up to the 1941 electrical codes? Before grounding was required or, it seems, much of anything else.

"And your ducting? It's asbestos."

"How come no heat goes to the second floor?"

"Well," answered the Heat Guy, scratching his chin, "when they added on this lil' dining area, they just tore out the duct and never did connect it again. There's no way to get heat up there."

"Come on," I dissented, "there's got to be a way." Two hours later he announced that he could run duct up the side of the wall in the lil' dining area. "Hardly notice it once you hire a carpenter."

At last: the house is dry. Mostly. After two tries the plumber eliminated the bathtub leak and the subsequent frog pond in the basement.

This old house is just like my grandma's, especially when cooking smells fill the air. Which they can, now that we've replaced the stove. The Stove Man told us the continuous-cleaning oven that came with the house had been abused. It'd been scrubbed with an oven cleaner and even if the rampaging thermostat were fixed, we wouldn't be rid of the toxic fumes in a millennium. Grandma's recipes would never taste the same.

Yes, this old house has some problems. We occasionally lament that they will never end. Then we laugh and remind ourselves that when the refrigerator died it was only because the Pump Repair Guy had messed with the fuse (yes, fuse) box. And when a car sank into the soil atop our new fiberglass septic tank the Tankman, for a fee of course, came right out with a load of gravel.

So what if the toilet flushes itself now and then? So what if the pretty bay window over the sink floods — what easier way to water the plants? So what if no one mentioned the guy next door gets his water from our well?

Our old house has a history, a personality. In Provence or Tuscany it would be considered not merely vintage, but quaint and full of character. The gnomes and ghosts? We'd pay extra for them.

Now and then my paranoia decides the Plumbers, Heat Guys, Electricians, Tankmen, Appliance Repairers, Garage Door Installers — who five days later still hasn't appeared — are taking advantage of two lone women — or — couldn't be — a little homophobic?

A non-gay woman who moved nearby ten years ago reassured me. "Get used to it. Around here, tomorrow is any day after today."

This old house ought to last at least until tomorrow.

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Everything that deceives may be said to enchant.

— Plato
Paper highlights Lone Star lesbian sheriff

The October 29 Dallas Morning News had an excellent news feature on openly lesbian Travis County (Texas) Sheriff Margo Frasier. "Without ever meaning to, Margo Frasier has assembled a string of firsts for herself — the first female lieutenant in the Travis County Sheriff's Department; the first captain; the first female Travis County sheriff; and oh, yes, coincidentally, the first openly gay Travis County sheriff," the story begins.

The profile integrates her sexual orientation into the rest of what makes Frasier the person and cop she is, including mention of "her analytical side, her tough side... [and] a droll wit that comes from being so closely aligned to law enforcement." It discusses how she broke down gender barriers not specifically as a civil rights cause, but mainly because she just wanted the jobs. "I mean, if the job is there and you're a good match for it, why shouldn't you have it if you're qualified?" Sheriff Frasier says with a shrug. "I don't think gender, race or anything other than qualifications should be criteria for being whatever it is you want to be." In addition to her professional life, it discusses her family, including her partner and their four-year-old daughter.

The Dallas Morning News profile of Sheriff Frasier interviews peers, co-workers, family and officials to give a full picture of the work she does, and the courageous person she is. It avoids the tired trap of feeling compelled to interview anti-gay bigots for "balance," and because of it, provides a well-rounded and intelligent feature.

Please thank the Dallas Morning News for a great profile of an outstanding individual. Contact: Ralph Langer, Editor, Dallas Morning News, PO Box 655237, Dallas TX 75265-5237, fax 214-977-6319, e-mail <national@dallasnews.com>.

GLAAD is a national organization that promotes fair, accurate and inclusive representation as a means of challenging discrimination based on sexual orientation or identity.
Deep Inside Hollywood

Ellen helps ABC win

Lately, there has been nothing but bad blood between Ellen DeGeneres and ABC over the gay content on her eponymous series. The network has repeatedly saddled her show with an on-screen parental advisory, about which Ellen has loudly complained. The frank sexuality on the show and Ellen's contentious behavior toward her network have not earned her much support in the mainstream press, especially from Time magazine. None of this has hurt the show, however, since Ellen continues to enjoy consistently high ratings. Ellen has been winning her time slot, beating CBS's much-hyped new series Public Eye With Bryant Gumbel and NBC's freshman sitcom Working is helping ABC to regularly win the Wednesday night ratings battle. This is great news for ABC, which has recently seen its top-rated series Home Improvement lose out to NBC's Frasier on Tuesdays, which is traditionally ABC's best night of the week. With Ellen now enjoying its best ratings ever as one of ABC's few bright spots this season, it looks like Ellen will get to continue making the show as gay as she wants.

Cole Porter: free at last

The classic song library of gay composer Cole Porter will soon be available to everyone free of charge. Along with the works of George and Ira Gershwin, Irving Berlin, and other composers of the early pop era, the copyright on Porter's first works are to become part of the public domain. This is great news for performers who have been anxious to use Porter's tunes, but have been hindered by either royalties or lack of permission from his estate. While heirs to the estates of these songwriters are battling over the loss of royalty payments, they are also concerned about protecting the integrity of the artists' work, as well as their public image. While Porter did live with men for the majority of his life, his estate has not been anxious to have him known as a gay composer. Instead, they prefer to maintain the romantically heterosexual image that was portrayed in the 1946 biographical film starring Cary Grant, ironically titled Night and Day. However, with the songs in the public domain, it may soon be Anything Goes for other artists who want to use Porter's work in more gay-friendly contexts.

MTV spotlights gay youth

The Shared Heart, a traveling exhibit of Adam Mastoon's photographs of "lesbogay" teenagers, was recently featured on MTV. The photos also appear in a new book which is now available across North America. MTV highlighted the work which profiles youth discussing what it is like being a lesbian teenager. Previously, MTV has been supportive of gay and lesbian issues during the MTV News' Sex In the 90s specials and on the real-life soap opera The Real World. Mastoon's next subject is Betty DeGeneres, Ellen's mother, the official spokesperson for the National Coming Out Day project.

Emma Thompson: screen lesbian

"I'm not a lesbian, but I play one on TV," could become Emma Thompson's new catchphrase. The Oscar-winning actress/writer guest-starred on a recent episode of Ellen playing herself, during which Thompson made several "personal rev-

elations," including that she is a lesbian. Thompson has been romantically linked to the handsome actor Greg Wise since they worked together on the film Sense And Sensibility. Thompson has long been a supporter of gay and lesbian issues. Previously, she starred in the gay-themed film Carrington and has often cited two gay godfathers and a gay uncle as positive influences during her upbringing. The Ellen episode also included an appearance by actor Sean Penn. Penn did not declare that he is a lesbian during the episode.

Murnau: back from the dead

Gay silent film director F.W. Murnau is receiving new life on home video more than sixty years after his death. His classic vampire film Nosferatu has been released on video along with the long-lost first screen version of Mary Shelley's Frankenstein, or the Modern Prometheus. Murnau was one of the top directors in Hollywood by the end of the silent era, including directing Janet Gaynor as the first Oscar-winner for best actress in Sunrise. His career ended suddenly in a mysterious car accident at the height of his popularity, which it is rumored involved him engaging in a sexual act with his chauffeur while the car was in motion. Nosferatu helped establish his reputation as a world-renowned director when released in 1922. Based on Bram Stoker's Dracula, the title was changed after Stoker's estate sued the studio. Both films are now available together as Cinema's First Monsters on home video.

Relative not going Wilde

Oscar Wilde's grandson Merlin Holland is not a fan of the latest film version of his grandfather's life. As the official editor of Wilde's papers and widely considered the best authority on the late writer, Holland has proclaimed that the film Wilde is unbalanced because it focuses too much on his grandfather's sexual orientation. While film critics in England have commented that the film does not go far enough in showing Wilde's personal life and struggle with his sexual identity, Holland has stated that more attention should have been paid to Wilde's work than to his sex life and conviction on charges of sodomy. North American audiences can decide for themselves when Wilde opens here in December.

Miss Paige Turner can be reached at <paige@planetout.com>.
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tape of Calypso music. The van is quiet as Paul and I and the seniors watch the tropical landscape drift by. Then I suddenly tune into a song's lyrics, sung by a distinctly male voice:

_If I were a bride, I'd marry a scuba diver He'd go down with me and I'd go down with him And all night long we'd go down together._

I nudge Paul and motion my head into the air for him to listen. I feel a twinge of delight as the van remains quiet except for one old woman flirting with the driver up front. The lyrics are lost on everyone, it seems.

_Hey, we're in the Caribbean — the rhythm's the thing, right? If I were a bride, I'd marry a lawyer He'd screw me and I'd screw him And all night long we'd be screwing each other..._

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**AT&T employee group establishes gay youth scholarship**

*GLAAD Press Release*

Recognizing the challenges faced by today's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students, the lesbian and gay employee group at AT&T recently announced the establishment of a foundation to administer its youth scholarship fund. The LEAGUE (Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay and Transgendered United Employees) at AT&T Foundation will promote diversity, understanding and academic excellence by providing grants of up to $1,000 to college-bound graduating high school seniors who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender and are active in their local communities. For more information, contact LEAGUE at (703) 713-7820.

The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) promotes fair, accurate, and inclusive representation as a means of challenging discrimination based on sexual orientation or identity.
Cruising scenes

by Ken Lovering

Ken Lovering's works have appeared in numerous publications including Seattle Gay News and The Boston Book Review. Winner of the 1993 University of Massachusetts Literary Prize, he is published in Jack Hart's anthology, The Day We Met, Alyson Publications. He and his partner, Paul, reside in Massachusetts.

Dare I say that the cruise line on which I won a 7-day Caribbean journey is the very same on which Gavin MacLeod once sailed? And dare I say that the hoakiest thing I've ever done in my life was to sail into the Atlantic Ocean from Ft. Lauderdale on the bow of this megaship while Jack Jones belted out an extended, disco'ed, piped-in version of "The Love Boat" not once, not twice, but three times?

Certainly, my episode cannot be left untold.

Fort Lauderdale

Before we go to dinner, I leave Danny, our cabin steward, a note to push our two twin beds together to form a queen. I suspect that Danny is not his real name — he appears to be Filipino, as does much of the cabin staff. And I don't know what the Filipino attitude is toward two men sharing a bed. But it doesn't matter; as a member of the service industry, Danny is simply supposed to do what is asked of him. He greets us enthusiastically the following morning when we pass him in the hall.

Ocho Rios, Jamaica

I'm a little anxious about this place, having read about its notorious homophobia in guidebooks. Its pier is one large claustrophobic scream of confusion. The island's underlings seem to all converge here when a ship is in port to prey on tourists. Out of the muck and chaos of touters, we find C.J., Cool John, to take us in his taxi. I trust him for one reason only: he is older than all the other drivers. I take this as a sign of integrity. We walk with him through a gauntlet of other drivers accosting us for a fare, intent on usurping us from Cool John.

Later, after our white-knuckle taxi sojourn, we are walking to a portside shopping district in search of souvenirs. A young thin man begins walking with us, chatting innocently enough at first, reeling us into an interaction. Where are we from, mon? Been to Jamaica before, mon? Want to buy some weed, mon? We are cold to him, eager to cut off the encounter. But he persists, sometimes simply walking with us silently. Paul and I are undeniably nervous; there are other men, groups of them, sitting around under palm trees, also waiting to accost tourists, I'm afraid they will all see who we are and we will be defenseless.

The man slows his pace and falls behind, convinced he will get nothing from us. And I hear him, just loud enough but not with intent to attack, "Prob'ly a cuppla fags." Jamaica, we decide, is certainly not a place we want to be, so we eventually turn around. The man has disappeared, likely following someone else. Once we are inside the customs gate, I feel safe and relieved, even around the imposing, gun-toting uniforms who likely contribute to the culture's homophobia.

Grand Cayman

When we wake up this morning, Paul is feeling seasick so we have to forego our snorkeling excursion. Instead, we'll try to sign on to an organized shore excursion which we swore we would avoid for its tourist trappings. But it will be slowly paced and it will get off this boat which, with each passing day, is feeling more confining.

I find the tour lady in her sailor suit about changing tours. I hope it's not too late to change, I say, but my partner's ill and can't go snorkeling.

Call me stupid, but when I say "partner," I have a very clear image in my head that I'm speaking of Paul. It's not even so much that Paul is a man that flashes through my head (though that is certainly a crucial factor). It's just that he's Paul. That's enough for me and I simply can't conceive of otherwise. But the sailor-suited lady responds in her British accent, very proper: "She's not feeling well, is she?"

I want to say, "Only I can call him she," but it's early in the day, my coffee has not yet kicked in, and I'm feeling a little queasy myself come to think of it, so I simply say, "NO" and I thank her for changing our tour.

So it is that we arrive in Hell with a minivan full of seniors. This tiny town on Grand Cayman is known for its stalagmite-like rock formations the color of coal, apparently discovered by some imaginative explorer who exclaimed upon seeing them, "This must be what Hell looks like!" Or so the legend goes.

Mind you, these rocks do not dominate the landscape. In fact, conveniently so, they are tucked directly behind the post office so that one can send postcards to one's friends and family aptly postmarked and everyone can get a good chuckle. We write a postcard to our lesbian friends, "Jerry Falwell was right! Repent while you still can!" and stick it in the postbox.

Riding back to the pier in the tour minivan, our guide has finished his scripted talk and he clicks on a cassette
Lesbian Notions

A common catch phrase in the lesbian and gay movement these days is “bipartisan strategy” — the idea that the movement should expand its political lobbying efforts and spend time and money cozying up to Republican legislators as well as Democratic ones. I’m concerned that all such a strategy will really do is move us further and further to the political right.

The presumed need for a two-party game plan is the reason that the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), the largest national lesbian and gay political group, last summer hired Tracey St. Pierre, a conservative lesbian Republican who had been a closeted top staffer for the likes of Dan Quayle and Rep. Charles Canady (R-FL), co-sponsor of the Defense of Marriage Act. HRC’s hiring of St. Pierre as a senior lobbyist didn’t surprise me. The organization has always been more focused on lesbian and gay people finding a place at the table than having a say in how the table is constructed. HRC has also regularly made campaign contributions to Republican candidates.

What did surprise me was that there was little or no flap about HRC’s move in the lesbian and gay community. In general, St. Pierre’s hiring was reported in the gay press as a routine news story, with congratulatory quotes from community activists like Rich Tafel, executive director of the gay-oriented Log Cabin Republicans (LCR).

Bi-partisan strategy was also heralded recently by, of all people, Urvashi Vaid, the progressive lesbian leader who just two years ago in her book, Virtual Equality, documented and warned against the conservative shift in the lesbian and gay movement was taking. In a recent issue of Out magazine, Vaid and Tafel sat down for a joint interview, and to my surprise, Vaid stated emphatically that “the one-party approach is the wrong approach. All of our eggs should not be in the Democratic Party basket.”

Maybe I’m suddenly out of fashion, but the phrases “lesbian Republican” and “gay Republican” (like “black Republican”) send chills down my spine. There’s a reason that two-thirds of lesbian and gay voters have consistently voted Democratic: the Republican Party offers them nothing and, in general, is proud to be so empty-handed. It’s a challenging parlor game to think of Republican politicians who have truly been our friends. More common is the long honor roll of Republican pols who help enact legislation that harms lesbians and gay men, women, poor people, and communities of color. And don’t forget how much Republicans love to garner the approval of the Christian Right.

All this makes me suspicious of gay Republicans, whom I don’t trust any more than I do Jesse Helms. Tafel has cleverly appropriated the language of the left for conservative purposes, recently stating in The Advocate that lesbians and gay men are “going to have to be more tolerant of diversity [emphasis added] in the community before we can ask for tolerance from outside the community.” Don’t kid yourself into thinking that Tafel meant real “diversity” — that is, people of all races, ethnicities, religions, and sexual orientations coming together to create a stronger, more just society. That would be too good to be true. What he actually meant is that the lesbian and gay movement must embrace gay Republicans. Like their straight white male counterparts, gay Republicans — who, despite the high visibility of Tracey St. Pierre, are overwhelmingly men — seem to be scared that white men are losing power and ground to women and people of color.

And what about the goal of seeking “tolerance from outside the community”? I don’t know about you, but I want more from society than “tolerance,” which sounds suspiciously like “Love the sinner, hate the sin.” Like the aims of their chosen political party, the goals of gay Republicans are short-sighted and one-note. Though they claim to be multi-issue, they limit their focus to gay rights in isolation from other important and interconnected social concerns. How do women, people of color, poor seniors, single mothers, and homeless youth fit into a gay Republican vision of equal access to power and money? Answer: About as well as they do in Newt Gingrich’s mean-spirited Contract with America.

What particularly concerns me is that gay Republicans have grown in strength and voice in just a handful of years. Since opening its national office in 1993, the Log Cabin Republicans have expanded from 9 clubs nationwide to 53. What other lesbian or gay organization can claim that kind of rapid rise? In addition, LCR donates $100,000 each election cycle to Republican candidates. These guys definitely have know-how and, more importantly, money. And with money comes influence, power, and the ability to turn a movement’s political agenda further to the right.

If, in our personal relationships, we can’t learn democracy, compassion, and love, there is no possible way we can learn them in some larger arena.

— Sonia Johnson

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Dear Community,

As this issue of NorthView goes to press, we are in the midst of a new Christian year. It is the season of Advent. A time when we are reminded once again that “God has not given up on us.” As I thought about that, a question took form in my head. How do you package love?

A picture looks nice in a gold frame, but how do you package love?

Will it fit in a box? Or a sack? Or a sock hanging over the fireplace?

Maybe a sprig of holly would do, or mistletoe to show where the heart is.

But how many yards of gold ribbon will it take to make love warm enough to break through the chill propriety of our good will? How many feet of pine cone clad gift wrap must be wound around our heart to make it pulse to acts of kindness?

God used a stable. And packaged Love in a person.

Love lay still in a manger as disbelieving people wondered if this was all. Love came wrapped in straw and the wonder of a mother’s smile.

And though we add our candles and our multi-colored lights, our ribbons of green and red, our stocking and tree, the marvel of God’s love can still seem small unless we smile.

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit...Now all this took place to fulfill the word spoken by the prophets: The young woman will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel.

Have a Blessed Christmas, each and every one.

Pastor Al Horn, Acting Interim, Lamb Of God
Metropolitan Community Church

Southern Baptist boycott having no effect

Copyright 1997 Reuters Limited

NEW YORK (Reuters) — Disney chairman Michael Eisner said the boycott of the entertainment giant by Southern Baptists over gay issues has not had any financial effect on the company. In an interview with CBS for 60 Minutes,' Eisner responded to charges by Richard Land of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics and Liberty Commission that Disney is “pushing a Christian bashing, family bashing, pro-homosexual agenda.”

Eisner said on the show that some of the movement's leaders are “nuts.”

At issue is Disney World’s “Gay Day,” attended by thousands of gay men and lesbians annually, Disney’s granting of benefits to partners of gay employees, the television show Ellen, which stars openly gay comedian Ellen DeGeneres as a lesbian on Disney-owned ABC, and even animated films like Pocahontas.

“That’s ridiculous. We’re not pushing any agenda,” Eisner told CBS. “When somebody says Pocahontas is anti-Christian or anti-Jewish or anti-black or anti-Native American, I say inside deep down, ‘they’re nuts.’ They really are.”

Land said on the program that the Pocahontas character should have been portrayed as a Christian, but Eisner responded that “she didn’t become a Christian in the legend until after our story ended.”

On Ellen, Eisner said he thought the gay plotline has been “very well done” and that same-sex kissing on the show did not offend him, although he conceded it probably made some people uncomfortable and that was why the network put an advisory on the show. “It would be hard to ask ABC, either in their news division or in their public relations division or in their entertainment division to cancel or edit something out that was mature.”

Eisner said gay groups “arranged (Gay Day) themselves... And I think it would be a travesty in this country for us to exclude anybody.”

While he said he thought Disney was “the wrong group to go after,” Eisner said “they have the right to do it and they’re doing it the right way... I love that. I respect that.”

“It hasn’t had a financial effect,” he said of the boycott.
It's a pleasure to serve the Community!

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HIV-positive employees still face workplace discrimination

WASHINGTON, October 28 — Despite more than a decade of public education on AIDS, and federal laws that protect the rights of HIV-positive employees, more than 30 percent of employees recently polled by the National AIDS Fund said they believe an HIV-infected employee would be fired or placed on disability by their employers at the first sign of illness. An additional 13 percent think their employer would restrict an infected employees’ benefits. When employees were asked what their employers should do more than 21 percent said they favor firing or restricting the infected employee. Two-thirds of employees polled also said they believe their coworkers would feel “uncomfortable” if forced to work beside an HIV-positive employee. The findings are the result of a survey conducted for the National AIDS Fund by Caravan Opinion Research. The survey of employee attitudes was designed to measure changes since the last survey in 1992.

“Fewer employers are offering AIDS-related educational programs now than five years ago, though more than half of those employees surveyed cite the threat of AIDS as one of their three personal health concerns,” said B.J. Stiles, President and CEO of the Fund. “Unfortunately, the numbers indicate diminishing interest in HIV/AIDS as a workplace issue by employers. We find that particularly alarming in the face of an apparent increase in intolerance toward the HIV-positive employee. In addition, we are seeing more HIV-positive people wanting to leave the disability rolls and return to work as a result of improved HIV/AIDS drugs and therapies,” Stiles said. “A supportive workplace with knowledgeable and cooperative coworkers must greet those HIV-positive employees if their return to work is to be successful.”

Although personal concern about AIDS has decreased during the past 10 years, the survey found the impact of AIDS on individual lives has increased. In 1992, 28 percent of all adults and 34 percent of private-sector employees knew someone with AIDS or who was HIV positive. Today, 39 percent of all adults and 46 percent of employees know someone who is or was infected.

Results from the study were based on interviews with a representative sample of about 2,000 adults living in private households in the United States. Other survey findings include:

— The younger an individual, the more likely he or she is to be personally concerned about AIDS. Similarly, employees under 25 are the most supportive of company sponsored AIDS-related activities.
— In 1992 and 1997, African-American employees showed a greater personal concern about AIDS than white Americans (AIDS is mentioned as the top health concern by 45 percent of African-Americans vs. 25 percent of white Americans).
— Female employees are more likely to believe that there should be an organized AIDS education program in the workplace than male employees (80 percent vs. 67 percent.)

The National AIDS Fund is the nation's largest philanthropic and grantmaking organization dedicated to reducing the incidence and impact of HIV/AIDS by promoting leadership and generating resources for effective community responses to the epidemic. Its 32 Community Partners in cities across the U.S. support HIV/AIDS programs that annually provide direct care and services to more than half a million people whose lives have been touched by AIDS.

Funding support for the survey was provided by AT&T. Copies of the complete survey are available from The National AIDS Fund.

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Barry Goldwater, archconservative, on...

The Religious Right: “The religious right is dangerous. It’s trouble for the party and trouble for America. I am truly worried. When people start controlling politicians by threatening to boycott them if they are not of the same religious bent, we begin to see the ugly face of fascism.”

Gay rights: “With the exception of a few states, there could be a gay president today. Religion, color, sex and sexual orientation are transcended by honor, reputation and background.”
Dear Love

The first year: the summing up

by Karen Carlisle

In between the beginning and end of this story, dear Fken visited us here in the Ozarks and left behind much love, many clean dishes, good advice, a spreadsheet and a burst of prosperity. (He would make someone a wonderful wife.) Through his eyes, we saw our situation more clearly, saw how exhausted we were, and saw no relief in sight.

After eight and twelve months of involuntary unemployment respectively, we were forced to take work in Springfield, and beyond, for Dear Love; our humble home is in the country, in Hermitage, 52 miles away. And even though Ken thought the house not worth suffering for, he wasn't here long enough to understand what living in the country means to Dear Love and me or how much I want to be near Lucy.

Should we sell our house and move to Springfield? And leave Lucy? We hadn't yet found our affordable Springfield hideaway for sleeping over when we're too tired to drive home — or the money to pay for it. No jobs closer to home had surfaced. We had to open our minds to the possibility of moving, and other possibilities. We can't live the same life as Lucy. She was smart and invested her money in real estate and didn't change jobs, so she got to retire. Dear Love and I must always work, unless, of course, we win the Missouri Lottery or some sweepstakes or another. (I've been submitting the never-ending applications for Family Publishers Sweepstakes because I was an American Bandstand baby. I'm convinced the winner will ultimately be the one who can best follow the directions. They become more confusing each time.)

Our dream is to be able to work from home, and be in the country. My wish is to support myself as a free-lance writer. Dear Love's dream has painting, writing, computers, and counseling in it, but the dream doesn't have a shape yet.

We didn't plan to move to MO and reenact our exact previous worklife here, but we did. Only instead of flying around Southwust Alaska to deliver services, we drive around Southwest Missouri doing it.

We thought we'd just work in Springfield until jobs opened up nearer to home. We're both on the state register — after all day merit exams and the application from hell. We hoped to work for the Division of Aging in Hickory, Polk, or Dallas counties as we segued into our "real" lives.

Dear readers, these are our real lives. We can't count on other jobs coming up, but we have good news: we've found a home away from home. And with family, yet. A gay man we met is renting us half his town house. He's gone most of the time to his lover's house. So sad to say, we're left with very Victorian high-back chairs before the fireplace, a magnificent grandfather clock with a beautiful song, and a hot tub. Now all we have to figure out is how to pay for it, but Virgil is very generous and flexible.

In 1 1/2 years, Dear Love will be eligible to draw social security. I sincerely hope, that along with part-time work, it will fulfill her financial commitment to this family. That's the plan; now we'll see just what spin the universe puts on this scheme.

I have noticed that no journey I set upon had a straight path to its destination. In fact, sometimes the Goddess, the universe, the gods, H P, Mother Earth and/or the Great Spirit changes the damn destination!

But I'm telling you, the universe is going to have to supply money to move and lots of young, strong bodies to haul the heavy stuff if that's the plan because my oldering body hasn't yet healed from the move from Alaska, and that's over a year ago.

The other unexpected side trip on the journey: I'm in the running to be hired as a creative writing professor at SMSU for fall term, and the knowledge that this was possible actually caused my heart to leap with joy. This is not just a cliché, but an actual physical occurrence. To stay in Anchorage, being a professor was a dream I had to forfeit, not being at the top of the Hit Parade with certain writing professors at UAA. Maybe I won't be hired, but I have a chance; and I love teaching.

And did I say that I don't miss snow? And that I love loving and working with the Lucy of the Earth?

Copyright 1997 Karen Carlisle

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Murphy's Manor

What is this some kind of military service thing?

This is no fantasy. Here comes the Sergeant.

When will he take our orders?

I don't take orders, boy, I give them.

Shut up and eat. You got five minutes to finish.

What is this crap? I didn't order this — hey, this menu is blank.

It's a military theme restaurant, Andrew.

... with a "Don't ask, don't tell" menu.

Don't ask, private, just open wide.
AIDS epidemic far worse than previously thought

PARIS, Nov. 26 (AFP) — Thirty million people are living with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. There are 16,000 new infections a day, according to a report released by the joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) which said the epidemic was “far worse than previously thought.” According to UNAIDS, the overwhelming majority of infected people — 90 percent — live in developing countries, while the incidence of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome is falling in the industrialized world, largely thanks to the newly available antiretroviral drugs.

One in every 100 sexually active adults in the world is now believed to be living with HIV, although only one in 10 HIV-positive people know they are infected, UNAIDS says, qualifying this as a conservative estimate. Dr. Peter Piot, executive director of UNAIDS, said: “The more we know about the AIDS epidemic, the worse it appears to be.” He said the perception that the epidemic was running out of steam was completely false. The rate of 16,000 new infections a day was double what had been predicted.

In 1997, 5.8 million people contracted HIV, more than half a million of them children. If the current transmission rates hold steady, by the year 2000 the number of people with HIV and full-blown AIDS will soar to 40 million. Meanwhile 2.3 million people died of AIDS this year, UNAIDS estimates, a 50 percent increase over 1996. Nearly half the deaths were in women and 460,000 children under 15.

The report coincided with World AIDS Day, December 1, which this year is focused on the plight of children. UNAIDS estimates that 8.2 million children have been orphaned since the epidemic broke out.

“We are now realizing that rates of HIV transmission have been grossly underestimated — particularly in sub-Saharan Africa,” Piot said. In that region, infections have reached an alarming 7.4 percent of all those aged between 15 and 49, although levels of infection vary widely across the continent.

“South Africa now estimates that one in 10 adults are living with HIV — up more than a third since 1996. And in Namibia, AIDS now kills nearly twice as many people as malaria, the next most common killer.” The situation in Zimbabwe had far outstripped the worst-case scenarios predicted in the mid-1980s. In 1996 infection was estimated at one in five adults in Harare. In one township with a large population of migrant workers, seven in 10 pregnant women were already testing positive for HIV in 1995.

In Asia, where the epidemic is more recent than in Africa, infection rates are very low, but given the demographic size involved, the number of people affected is higher. In India, infection is under one percent of the total adult population, but that still means somewhere between three and five million people, making India the country with the largest number of people with HIV in the world.

At the end of 1996, China estimated that up to 200,000 people had HIV or AIDS. The report said there were indications that this figure may have doubled by now. In southeast Asia, the situation in Cambodia was bleakest, with one in 20 pregnant women and one in 16 soldiers and policemen testing HIV-positive. Vietnam and Burma were also seeing a rapid spread of HIV, it said. In contrast, however, Thailand was continuing to reduce the rate of new infections among sex-workers and their clients, which account for the majority of the country’s estimated 750,000 HIV and AIDS cases.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, AIDS has already overtaken road accidents as the leading cause of death, although Sao Paulo in Brazil has recorded a fall on the same scale as western Europe and North America, which has been put down to the use of the new antiretroviral drugs. This year Brazil spent 700 million dollars on treatment for HIV-positive patients.

The report highlighted the growing gap between the developing countries and the industrialized world attributed to the new drug therapy. It said there was evidence that new AIDS cases in 1997 were 30 percent down on 1995, before the new treatment was available.

In the United States, new figures indicated the first-ever annual decrease in AIDS cases in 1996 of six percent. An even bigger one was expected this year.

However in parts of eastern Europe, there had been a dramatic surge of 100,000 new cases this year, largely attributable to drug abuse and that concern was growing for the potential spread of HIV through unprotected sex.
During the past four years, I have written a monthly column for NorthView, primarily concerning current political events or issues. As one of those "strange" people who actually enjoys politics, these columns have been relatively easy to write. However, after thinking about it, I have never received any feedback from you, the reader, as far as whether what I write is relevant to your life or whether I am assuming you are as much into politics as I am.

To help me rectify that situation, I would invite any (OR ALL) of you to contact me with either questions about politics or possibly even suggest a topic for future columns. You can call me at 274-9226 (leave a message) or email me at alaskadan@aol.com.

With the year rapidly coming to a close, it is the perfect time to begin to organize for next year's political battles. This past year has lulled us into a more apathetic political posture than normal with no major elections held in Anchorage with the exception of the School Board elections this past April.

Next year, 1998, will more than make up for the lack of political activity in Anchorage this year. Beginning in April, there will be Municipal elections for some School Board seats and five seats on the Municipal Assembly — almost half of the 11-member Assembly.

Assemblypersons up for election in April include Pat Abney, Dan Kendall, Fay von Gemmigen & George Wuerch. Mark Begich is unable to run again due to term limitations but his district will elect a new Assemblyperson to represent them. Three of these five members have been supportive for issues affecting our community. Kendall and Wuerch have not, as evidenced on their recent vote to censor Out North Theatre by eliminating all Municipal funding. Of course, they bent over backwards to say sexual orientation of the organizers had nothing to do with their decisions (By the way, they even said that without laughing!!!), it is obvious after trying for 4-5 years to censor Out North, sexual orientation, both as to staff of Out North and the content of some productions was too much for the six self-appointed art critics/censors making up a majority of the Municipal Assembly. If you are appalled that it is so easy to censor the arts in Anchorage, be sure to contact the Mayor's office at the following address:

Mayor Rick Mystrom
P.O. Box 196650
Anchorage, AK 99519-6650

His email address is: wwmayor@ci.anchorage.ak.us

In addition to the April elections we will also have statewide elections in late summer and fall.

We will have elections to fill the offices of Governor and Lt. Governor (Democrats Tony Knowles and Fran Ulmer are expected to seek reelection), US Senator (Republican Frank Murkowski is seeking reelection), US Congress (that Republican supporter of term limits, Don Young is expected to run for his 14th term...so much for limits). In addition to these statewide elections there will be elections to pick all 40 members of the Alaska House of Representatives as well as 10 of the 20 members of the Alaska Senate.

If you aren't registered to vote, be sure to register before mid-March in order to be eligible for the April elections. If you're not sure about all the issues affecting our community, EQUAL (EQUALity Under Alaska Law) may be just the group for you. Contact EQUAL at this address:

EQUAL
P.O. Box 244452
Anchorage, AK 99524-4452

In the elections for School Board this past year, every progressive candidate won. Let's try to do the same with the elections in 1998!

PS: Although, I am a progressive Democrat, there is at least one person who is interested in starting a Log Cabin Republican Club in Alaska. Contact me if you are interested in helping him.
NEW YORK, November 19 — The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) and Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere (COLAGE) praised the television show Ellen for bringing an important portrayal of a child of a lesbian parent to the small screen. Holly (Kayla Murphy) is the 12-year old daughter of Lori (Lisa Darr), Ellen's girlfriend on the ABC show, and was featured prominently in the November 12 episode, in which Ellen met Holly for the first time.

The episode explored Ellen's discomfort with displaying affection publicly. Ellen thinks that Holly simply does not like her, until they have a heart-to-heart talk about Ellen's feelings. Holly tells her that anyone's who going to date her mother cannot hide who they are. Ellen realizes how enlightened Holly is, and then begins to behave in a more open and honest manner.

"This is yet another breakthrough for ABC and Ellen. For the millions of children of lesbians and gay men growing up in America today, Holly represents them in a wonderful light. She's smart, funny, has crushes on boys, plays in the school band and has very deeply held beliefs about herself and her mother," said GLAAD Executive Director Joan M. Garry, mother of three. "Lori and Holly are one of the better examples of family values on television, they have a close, open and honest relationship of love and understanding."

There are an estimated 6 to 14 million children who have a parent who is lesbian or gay, according to Charlotte Patterson, the leading psychological expert on children of gay people. Also in her research, Dr. Patterson found that children of lesbian and gay parents are not more likely than children of heterosexual parents to have low self-esteem.

"As the daughter of a lesbian and a gay man, I can tell you that Holly is a great addition to the television family," said Felicia Park-Rogers, Director of COLAGE. "My brother, sister and I grew up in a way that is honest, loving and can truly be held up as a family. I can only hope that people who are watching Ellen are learning that children of lesbians and gay men exist, and that we're helping to broaden the way family is defined, so that instead of being left out, we're now in and we count."

COLAGE is the only national support and advocacy organization run by and for daughters and sons of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender parents.

GLAAD is a national organization that promotes fair, accurate and inclusive representation of individuals and events in the media as a means of combating homophobia and all forms of discrimination based on sexual orientation or identity.

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Adults fail to protect students

Safe Schools, a Washington statewide coalition of 90 organizations, released a study last week revealing the profound failure of many adults in schools to address the anti-gay harassment faced by students.

In the past 4 years, 91 incidents were reported, including 8 gang rapes, 19 physical assaults, 14 cases of physical harassment and/or sexual abuse short of rape and 34 cases of ongoing verbal or physical harassment. Eight of the cases involved adults who were approached for help, but who then offended the youth or actively contributed to their harassment. One teacher told a young man, after his classmates spit on him, "Maybe you should do more push-ups. What's the matter, don't you like girls?"

In incidents where teens or children were targets, about one-fourth had adult witnesses. According to Beth Reis, from the Seattle-King County Department of Public Health and author of the report, "In half of those cases, the adults stood by in silence. What young people are telling us, loudly and clearly, is that they feel abandoned by the very adults whose job it is to protect them."

For more information contact Beth Reis (Safe Schools Coalition) at (206) 296-4755.
Volunteer Spotlight

by Al Kaneta

Sheldon J. Meier
A shy and unassuming man, the recipient of Identity's Special Recognition Certificate for November was no other than Sheldon J. Meier. He has called Alaska his home for the past 20 years, working first in Barrow, then in Anchorage for the Nana-Marriott Corporation. He was then hired by the State of Alaska as the Dietary Manager of Anchorage's Pioneer Home.

Let's see... dietary manager... manages our diet! Right? And that's what he does, with lots of experience in food handling, preparation and managing of a well-run kitchen! We of the Fourth Friday Potluck have tasted some of his great main dishes and know he has the talents to become a great chef... if he so desired.

He saw the first light of day some forty years ago in the northernmost part of Minnesota where some of their extreme weather is more severe than we experience in Anchorage. He gets back to see his family quite often but always returns to his Anchorage home and to Dennis!

Cooking has been the major force in Sheldon's life, but he has other interests as well. He has a passion for cross-country skiing on those snow-covered flatlands, but when summer comes you will find him canoeing or hiking or anything that may be considered an outdoor sport, including camping under the stars on the side of a mountain.

Indoors, you would be amazed to see his collection of salt and pepper shakers and old cookbooks, some of them dating back many, many years. His collection of recipes could easily fill 50 cookbooks, and he is in his glory hosting dinner parties in his lovely home.

He is most supportive of our local gay organizations, their ad-hoc committees and other community efforts. A soft-spoken and gentle man, Sheldon is a credit to our community.
Where in the World

Above and Beyond

One of gay travel’s oldest suppliers has unveiled an impressive list of departures for the next few months. Starting with “New Years in Paris,” Dec 27 to Jan 2 for $1325 including air; “Best of the South Pacific,” Feb 11 to Mar 7; “New Zealand Adventure,” Feb 14 to 20; “HERO Party and Mardi Gras,” $2985 including air; “Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras,” Feb 22 to Mar 2; “Tropical Daze,” Queensland, Mar 2 to 7; “Treasures of Italy,” Mar 6 to 10; “Queens Day,” Amsterdam, Apr 28 to May 3; “Costa Rica Adventure,” May 22 to 31; “Gay Games Amsterdam,” from $835 plus air; “Cycle Holland,” Aug 9 to 16; “Spanish Holiday” Aug 9 to 15.

Equinox Wilderness Expeditions

Equinox Wilderness Expeditions offers approximately 65% women-only tours, but also does co-ed and all male trips. The following is a sample of their plans for the coming year. Mar 8 to 15 it’s Spring Break in Utah (women only). Co-ed river trips out of Fairbanks run Jun 4 to 15, Jun 17 to 26, Jul 11 to 18, Aug 14 to 23, and Aug 25 to Sep 3; a women only river trip is planned for Jun 28 to Jul 7. Backpacking trips are Aug 4 to 11 and Aug 13 to 21 (for women) and Jun 8 to 16 (co-ed). In addition, they also offer basecamp/day hiking, photography/hiking, sea kayaking, and boat cruises.

Brrrrrr

Just what every Alaskan needs is a trip to the South Pole. Abel Tasman is offering a package to Australia, New Zealand and the Antarctic for just $2645. You get RT air from LA, 4 nights hotel in Melbourne or Sydney, cooked breakfast daily, 3 nights in New Zealand, and the special Qantas charter flight over the Antarctic. Well, at least it’s summer there for all the good that does.

Our Family Abroad

Another well known name in gay tours is offering a variety of tours in 1998. These include India & Nepal, a week in Hong Kong, Orient Explorer cruise, the Costa Rica cruise, Legacy of the Inca cruise. They also offer week-long trips to Cannes, Scotland & Wales, Spain, Imperial Capitals, Classical Greece & Turkey, Prague & Vienna, Madrid & Barcelona, Ancient Egypt, Kenya & Tanzania, and South Africa.

Ski with Out West

For you butch guys and gals who are into skiing, backpacking and ranch vacations, Out West offers a selection including: Aspen, Big Sky Gay Ski Tour, Canadian Rockies, Ski & Soak, Backcountry Bliss, Utah Red Rock Adventure, and the Alaska Frontier Adventure.

And for the Rest of Us

Palm Springs, Puerto Vallarta, and Maui are all affordable “warm up” destinations. Many of these places have a lot to offer the gay and lesbian traveler. Contact your travel agent for some other ideas which might tickle your fancy and warm you both this winter!

Bob DeLoach, President of Apollo Travel, BG Tax and Accounting, The Electric Doctor, Apollo Real Estate, Lock Doc, is an insurance broker and still finds time to write novels for adults, take part in community theater, write this column, and be active in the community.

Raffle!!

Identity, Inc. will be raffling off a beautiful hand-knit Rainbow Afghan at the 4th Friday Potluck in December.

For only $5 a ticket you can win a wonderful Christmas present for yourself - or someone you love.

Limited tickets will be available at the 4th Friday Potluck in December, or by contacting Shirley Randal at 338-3708 or Kurt Parish at 696-3990.
"Those who refuse to have children are deserters, who seek to escape the laws of national continuity." Thus spoke Nicolae Ceausescu, the Communist dictator of Romania until the revolution of 1989. Gays and lesbians ranked high on the list of these treacherous non-breeders: they were ruthlessly persecuted by the state police, and gay culture was invisible.

I recently had the opportunity to assess what changes may have happened since the revolution, when I participated in a conference about homosexuality at the University of Cluj, in the northern province of Transylvania. The meeting was organized by psychologists Bill Hirst, of the New School for Social Research in New York, and Mircea Miclea of Cluj. The event was a public-relations success and a notable first for Romania. Particularly remarkable was the participation of the fledgling Romanian gay-rights organization, ACCEPT.

In spite of the revolution, in which Ceausescu and his wife were executed, liberalization has come slowly to Romania. Grinding poverty, and the generation-long repression of independent thought, seem to have left an inertia that invites renewed governmental repression. Not just gay people, but all minorities are still treated badly. Fortunately, those, like the Jews and ethnic Germans, who have not had the opportunity to emigrate. The Roma (gypsies) are literally marginalized: on the outskirts of Cluj, one Roma community lives in cardboard shanties and survives by scavenging from the city dump. The mentally ill and orphaned children suffer a malign neglect.

According to ACCEPT, one hundred and fourteen men and one woman are currently incarcerated (convicted or awaiting trial) for offenses against "paragraph 200," the Romanian sodomy statute. This statute criminalizes sexual acts that arouse "public scandal," or the promotion of such acts. Thus the ACCEPT activists risked arrest simply for participating in the meeting.

The Council of Europe is putting pressure on Romania to repeal its sodomy statute and to treat gay people better. Unless it does so, Romania will not be able to join the Common Market. (It's sobering to reflect that, if the United States applied to join the Common Market, it would run into the same stumbling-block.) On the other hand, conservative forces inside Romania are adamantly opposed to such liberalization. Chief among them are the Romanian Orthodox and Catholic churches. One evening during the meeting, a televised discussion of gay issues was broadcast. The Romanian Orthodox archbishop of Cluj, impressive in flowing beard and black robes, denounced us in thundering tones. We were trying to "normalize the abnormal," he declared. One member of the American contingent, Christian Huygen, countered with a casual but charming pitch for the gay lifestyle.

That these issues can even be discussed by the Romanian media is of course a mark of progress. A call-in radio show, devoted to the conference, went on for several hours beyond its scheduled time-slot. One caller, a male nurse, described how he had recently witnessed an attempt to "cure" a man of homosexuality by means of electro-shock therapy.

Isolation is still the dominant experience for gay and lesbian Romanians. Not a single gay-positive book has been published in Romania, and foreign books on the topic are unobtainable. Cluj has no gay-identified bar or cafe, although a corner of the city park serves its time-honored function after dusk. At the conference, only one of the Romanian participants admitted to being gay, and his coming-out was greeted with a collective jaw-dropping.

On one free morning, a history student took me on a guided tour of the city. In the watery fall sunshine, the ancient churches and the baroque-period commercial buildings lent a very European charm to the place, and the hordes of tourists bustling to and from their classes provided a sense of optimism for the future. It was ironic, though, to see the many archaeological sites at which the remains of the Roman imperial city of Napoca had been exposed to view. For that two-thousand year-old culture was far more accepting of sexual diversity than anything that is likely to develop in Cluj today.

As I took the white-knuckle Tarom Airlines flight back to Bucharest, I felt a distinct sense of accomplishment. Not so much for having delivered my usual lecture about the hypothalamus and gay genes, as for having been able to visit this hostile little corner of the world and stand up and say "I'm gay."

To exist...is to cast oneself into the world.
—Simone de Beauvoir

Simon LeVay, Ph.D., is well-known for his research on the "gay brain." He is the author of The Sexual Brain, City of Friends (with Elisabeth Nonas), and Queer Science (MIT Press, 1996), and the biomedical thriller Albrick's Gold (Richard Kasak books, 1997). He can be reached at <SLeVay@aol.com>. For more Queer Science, visit <http://www.gay.net>.

**QUEER SCIENCE**

By Simon LeVay, Ph.D.
Fighting words from “Perfect World”

Student educators get involved in battle against HIV/AIDS

by Bridget O’Connell

AIDS has become an increasingly important issue in the past decade, going from relative obscurity to a disease we all have heard of. Twenty-five percent of people infected with HIV or AIDS are between the ages of 13 and 21. This is a huge problem, because teens often are ill-informed about AIDS and how to prevent it.

RARE-T began in 1987 as an education program for teens at high risk of contracting HIV, mainly in large cities among populations without access to health care or information.

Since then, it has become a peer-education program that deals with a wide range of issues surrounding AIDS.

RARE-T is a national program, adopted by the Anchorage School District six years ago. All of the local high schools have a group of trained students, supervised by a faculty member, to teach the RARE-T curriculum to peers. The program has been successful in Anchorage. In addition to making presentations in their own schools, many groups have spoken at middle and elementary schools, as well as outside groups. Peer trainers from Anchorage have helped teens in the Kenai, Ketchikan, Fairbanks and Mat-Su school districts learn the RARE-T curriculum, and now those areas have their own groups.

There are many reasons RARE-T is an effective means of educating about HIV/AIDS and related issues. The key aspect of RARE-T is teens teaching other teens, therefore making the message more authentic, and creating a trusting, open atmosphere in which to learn about sensitive issues.

Ebony Evans, a RARE-T educator, said the best part of the program is “Knowing we make a difference... that kids trust us, and aren’t afraid to ask us questions they might not ask an adult.” Ebony has been working with the program for four years and has made presentations at her high school, Bartlett, a few elementary schools and Booth Memorial Home. She believes RARE-T is an essential program because of the number of teens who do not know the facts about HIV/AIDS.

To be RARE-T trainers, students go through an intense two-day conference, where they learn the curriculum and tips on how to present it. Prospective educators from all over the district are broken up into small groups led by two RARE-T educators, who have gone through additional training to teach the educators.

Liz Lewis and Betsy Shelton-Kelley, new RARE-T educators this year, described the training as “…fun and informative. We didn’t have any idea how much important information there was.” It is key that the educators know the curriculum well, in order to give information, answer questions and deal with some of the topics that can come up. In addition, educators must be able to adapt to different audiences and age levels, giving them appropriate and interesting information.

The curriculum covers the basic facts about HIV and AIDS, how the immune system works, HIV antibody testing, communication skills, self-esteem, alcohol and drug use, sexual influences and risk reduction. It includes in-depth information, worksheets and ideas for games and activities that educators can do during a presentation. In a typical high school presentation, educators would cover most of the curriculum, whereas presentations for elementary schools are about communication skills and building self-esteem.

Sean Swenssen decided he wanted to be a RARE-T educator after seeing a presentation in his health class last year. “I enjoyed the presentation, and I think it’s a good thing to teach others about.”

Every presentation starts with a set of ground rules that everyone in the class must agree to. This ensures that confidentiality is maintained, and that if a student participating in a presentation is uncomfortable with the material, they are allowed to take a time-out. Educators must be professional and mature about the material they are presenting.

Educators always stress that abstinence is the only way to prevent HIV infection. While they discuss sex, the emphasis is on why people might be pressured into sex before they are ready or end up having sex because of alcohol or drug use. The phrase “safer sex” is used when discussing condoms as the preferred and best method of birth control, because the only truly safe sex is no sex at all.

Presentations usually are made by a pair of educators, who use a variety of methods to get their points across. Posters, flip charts, activities and worksheets are used in combination to ensure that everyone understands not only the facts and definitions of HIV and AIDS, but how they relate to having sex too soon, low self-esteem and drug and alcohol use.

The mission of RARE-T is to lower the rate of teens becoming infected with HIV by showing how poor decision-making, lack of information and other factors can lead to having unprotected sex, and therefore HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases. Refusal skills and developing self-esteem are central to fighting the battle with HIV/AIDS among young people.

RARE-T has encountered some controversy in the Anchorage School District, mainly from some parents and Anchorage School Board members who believe the curriculum is not appropriate. The School Board decided last year that educators in RARE-T and high school health classes are no longer able to perform condom demonstrations in front of groups, and that some specific questions about birth control and STDs should be answered on an individual basis, outside of the classroom presentation.

The RARE-T program will continue to educate teens as long as there is a need. Because the percentage of young people contracting HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases is so high, it is obvious that more education is essential. RARE-T educators know they are making a difference in the lives of their peers and that through this information, hopefully more of them will stay healthy and make wise choices.

O’Connell is a senior at Steller Alternative School and a RARE-T presenter. This article first appeared in the “Perfect World,” Anchorage Daily News on November 20, 1997.
Assembly nixes funds for theater

The Anchorage Assembly eliminated city funding to the Out North Theater — a move that some Assembly members have been pushing for years.

Assembly members said they were upset that the theater featured a nude dance troupe and presented plays that weren't family orientated. Several Assembly members, including supporters of the theater, said they were shocked by a recent brochure the theater sent in the mail.

The brochure showed two men and a woman, apparently naked from the waist up, embracing each other and screaming.

Assembly member Ted Carlson, who led the fight against the theater, said the brochure made him aware of the contents of the theater's productions, such as nudity, and caused him to withdraw his support. "It brought to mind exactly what's going on," he said. "We don't want to use tax money to pay for something that the whole family can't go to."

Assembly member Kevin Meyer said city taxpayers shouldn't support any art group that deals with controversial issues.

The $22,000 the Assembly cut from the theater's $200,000 operating budget will be "crippling," the theater's artistic director Jay Brause, said in an interview. He said the Assembly doesn't like his theater because he and Gene Dugan, the theater's program director, are gay activists. "We are openly gay, and we are being punished," he said. "It's prejudice."

Brause and Dugan have asked a state court to declare unconstitutional a 1996 state law that bans same-sex marriages.

Carlson said in an interview later that the sexual orientation of the theater's managers had nothing to do with the issue. However, he said he didn't like the fact that the group put on programs that deal with gay issues.

The Assembly vote came without any public testimony. Earlier in the evening, the board said it would delay the vote for a few weeks, and several theater supporters left the Assembly chambers. The chair of the Art Advisory Commission, which approved the grant money, also left.

Out North receives grants from several groups, including United Way. It runs a theater education program in by two Anchorage middle schools.

Assembly member Charles Wohlforth said he, too, was upset by the Out North brochures, but he said the theater shouldn't be turned away simply because its managers have poor public relations skills. The city needs to fund art groups willing to deal with modern issues rather than limit funding to "just safe, mainstream classical music that is 200 years old," he added.

The vote was 6 to 5. Those voting in favor of the funding were Wohlforth, Pat Abney, Mark Begich, Joe Murdy and Fay Von Gemmingen.

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Gay and Lesbian National Hotline
1(888) THE GLNH (843-4564) Toll-Free
Free peer-counseling, information and referrals
http://www.glnh.org/
Open Mon-Fri 6-11p.m. EST (2-7p.m. AST)
Editorial

_connections_

A gay community center in Anchorage! What a novel idea! Not really! Once upon a time there was one (October 1997 NorthView, p. 17). And there could be one again. Many organizations and individuals in our “community” continue to discuss the possibility.

Could a community center be a catalyst for bringing together the diverse organizations and individuals that make up the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) community of Anchorage and southcentral Alaska? Although I was not here when the Alaska Gay Community Center (later known as the Alaska Lesbian and Gay Resource Center) was open — 1977 to 1985, indications are that it was a focal point of the “community.” Many groups and organizations met at the center, films were shown, potlucks were held. The center began publishing what was probably the forerunner of the NorthView in January 1978. And the Gay HotLine, the “predecessor” of Identity’s Gay and Lesbian HelpLine, moved to the center in the spring of 1978. It was a happening place for the GLBT community at that time. And it could happen again.

On a recent trip to the “Gay Mecca on the Bay,” I read an article in the San Francisco Chronicle about the founding of a new gay and lesbian community center — the Rainbow Community Center — in Contra Costa County, east of the Bay. I saw several parallels with our “community” in Anchorage. See if you recognize the similarities, too.

As the story relates, some six years ago the Contra Costa County community of Concord was embroiled in controversy. “Concord was a flashpoint in the battle over gay rights led by conservative council members backing an anti-gay ordinance.” Remember Measure M and the subsequent campaign of Sister Sadie Sadie the Rabbi Lady’s tongue-in-cheek campaign for city council! Does this bring up memories of a similar battle over an ordinance to protect gays and lesbians from discrimination that occurred in Anchorage in 1993-94?

What about this comment made by a founding member of the new center. “For so long in Contra Costa, all we’ve had are the bars.” I know I’ve thought this, and I’ve heard it often from friends in this “community.” Or this observation from a long time community activist attending a town hall meeting where some 50 community members were present to discuss the mission of the new center: “I only knew one person in the room. It hit me that the community is so large, yet we’re not connected.” Sound familiar?

The Rainbow Community Center has quickly become a focal point for the “community,” hosting group rafting trips, potlucks, volleyball, a garden club, square dancing, game nights and a myriad of meetings for everyone from gay parents to parents of gay children. Bulletin boards display information on finding gay-friendly doctors, lawyers and gardeners.

But more important is how the center has affected the GLBT community, the individuals who make up that community, and the community at large. It is a vehicle for integration into the community at large, for making “...everyone feel a little more comfortable with diversity.” It has created a positive atmosphere for community members to move from “that kind of very quiet closeted situation of only going to the bars. They feel like they’re part of the community at large.” Center users see it as a place where they can “do stuff anybody would normally do with friends or family on a Friday night.”

What do you think? Could a GLBT center in Anchorage do for our “community” what it is doing for our brothers and sisters in Contra Costa County? And what did it do in the past here in Anchorage? If you believe it can, as I do, then let us support those who are actively working toward that end.

This is my last issue as editor of the NorthView, at least for this go round. I would like to take this opportunity to say “Thank You” to the Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association for coordinating another very moving World AIDS Day service. And to wish all the readers of the NorthView and every member of this community a happy holiday season.

May the warmth and beauty of this season remain in your hearts and homes throughout the new year.

Much of the fodder for this editorial came from the Bay Area Focus article “Coming Out of the Closet” written by Christopher Heredia, Chronicle staff writer, which appeared in the September 27, 1997 issue of the San Francisco Chronicle.

HelpLine Training
Sunday, January 25
5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Identity Office
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
3201 Turnagain Street, Anchorage
Telephone Candy at 337-2011.
Identity NorthView is a monthly publication of Identity, Inc., a non-profit [501(c)(3)], Alaskan corporation concerned with issues of sexual identity. The NorthView is published as a community service and the views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of the directors, officers or members of Identity, Inc. The publication of an individual's or organization's name or photo in NorthView is not to be construed as any indication of the sexual orientation of such persons or organizations unless so specified.

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NorthView Editorial Board


Distribution
The NorthView is mailed (bulk mail) to members of Identity. Identity's mailing list is confidential and is not sold, given or loaned to anyone; however, special mailings under the auspices of Identity are occasionally sanctioned. Copies of NorthView are also distributed at select businesses in the Anchorage area. Financial contributions are gladly accepted to defray mailing costs.

Upon request, you may receive the NorthView in a First Class large envelope. Cost is $60 per year (includes membership in Identity and private mailing).

Reproducing
Please feel free to copy the NorthView and give it to anyone you feel will enjoy it or benefit from it. Articles that are copyrighted must be so noted on any copies.

Submissions
We welcome articles and letters from community individuals and organizations. Ideal length is 750 words or less. Please submit on 3.5 (IBM compatible or MAC HD). All media will be returned. All contributions must be signed, but upon request names will be withheld or pseudonyms used. NorthView reserves the right to edit as necessary and to refuse printing any article submitted.

ARE YOU "IN THE PINK"?!

LOOK AT THE RENEWAL DATE ABOVE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS ON THE MAILING LABEL. IF IT IS HIGHLIGHTED IN FLUORESCENT PINK, YOUR SUBSCRIPTION HAS EITHER EXPIRED OR WILL EXPIRE THIS MONTH. HELP THE NORTHVIEW STAY "IN THE BLACK" — RENEW! RENEW! RENEW!

Deadlines
All articles must be received by the 5th of the month for inclusion in that month's NorthView.

Advertising
Rates are displayed on the bottom of the table of contents. Contact NorthView by mail or through the HelpLine at 258-4777. Advertising can be submitted camera-ready or can be composed for you for a negotiated fee. NorthView does not accept personals, nor does it accept advertising that is sexist, racist, discriminatory or sexually explicit.

Mail
Editor, Identity NorthView, P.O. Box 200070, Anchorage, AK 99520-0070.

Phone
Anchorage Gay & Lesbian Helpline 907-258-4777. Hours: daily, 6pm-11pm. Messages left during off hours will be returned as soon as possible.

Anchorage Gay & Lesbian Helpline
258-4777 or
1(888) 901-9876 AK only

A community service of Identity, Inc.
PO Box 200070, Anchorage AK 99520
Table of contents

Advertisers
Alta's Bed and Breakfast .................................. 28
Alaskan AIDS Assist. Assn. .............................. 24
Anchorage Press ............................................ 20
Apollo Travel Service .................................... 6
Bela Bodnar .................................................. 12
Breast Cancer Detection ................................. 14
Capri Cinema ............................................... 18
City Mortgage .............................................. 13
ComputerLand Alaska ................................... 8
Courtney's ................................................. 23
Damron ...................................................... 17
Design/Craft ............................................... 18
Essential Touch Massage ................................ 35
Fotos by Frank ............................................ 22
Freedman, Ken ............................................ 17
Frigid North ................................................ 3
Gallery Bed & Breakfast .................................. 20
Gabriel Salon ............................................... 21
Hill Clinic ................................................. 36
Hoelting, Jill ............................................... 33
Identity Helpline ......................................... 1
Island Watch B & B ....................................... 29
Mendel & Associates ..................................... 33
National Gay & Lesbian Helpline ...................... 3
Oldtime Music Co. ....................................... 23
PFLAG Southcentral .................................... 23
Potluck ...................................................... 26
Professional Infusion .................................... 29
Rhodes, Phyllis .......................................... 29
Rona Mason, Realtor .................................... 7
Sauerdough Lodging .................................... 12
Short, Gene ............................................... 7
Short, Sylvia L ........................................... 19
S.T.A.R ...................................................... 25
Sweeping Lady ........................................... 34
TimeFrame ............................................... 27
Unitarian Fellowship .................................. 10
Waddell & Reed ......................................... 27
Wave, The ............................................... 26

Views
Al Horn ..................................................... 14
Calendar, current and on-going ....................... 42
Club notes ................................................ 40
Comics .................................................... 11, 27, 35, 40
Cyberlust ................................................. 42
Dan Carter ................................................. 9
David Bianco ............................................. 30
Directory .................................................. 38
Editorial ................................................... 2
Fairbanks News ......................................... 28
Financial .................................................. 37
Jen Kohout ............................................... 36
Karen Carlisle .......................................... 11
Ken Lovering ........................................... 16
Lee Lynch ................................................ 21
Masthead .................................................. 1
Michael Thomas Ford ................................ 22
Paige Turner ............................................. 19
Paula Martinac ......................................... 15
Simon LeVay ............................................. 5
Travel, Bob DeLoach .................................. 6
Volunteer Spotlight .................................... 7

Advertising rates
Classified ad (five lines) .................................. $15.00
Business Card ............................................. 25.00
Quarter page ............................................. 40.00
Half page .................................................. 65.00
Full page .................................................. 100.00
Back page ............................................... 125.00
Insert (one page) ....................................... 50.00
Insert (two plus pages) ................................ 25.00
(each page)
Discounts
Three months ............................................. 10%
Six months ............................................... 15%
Twelve months ........................................ 20%
Are you missing local and national news about the gay and lesbian community and the opportunity to network locally?

Your membership in Identity, Inc. gets you twelve issues of the NorthView, Anchorage's lesbigay newspaper. Simply return this page with your tax deductible $25.00 membership/donation (more if you can, less if you can't) to the address indicated below.

The NorthView has: a complete monthly calendar of events, a directory of lesbigay friendly businesses, national columnists, political information, editorials, local news and opinion pieces, cartoons, a balance of male and female contributors and much, much more!

Once you get your first issue, you'll wonder how you ever got along without it.

Membership/Pledge Form

Identity, Inc., PO Box 200070, Anchorage, AK 99520-0070

Yes! I want to be a part of Identity, Inc. I understand that my membership will expire one year from this date. My membership entitles me to vote at annual meetings and to receive the NorthView, Identity's monthly newspaper and other periodic mailings. I have the option to NOT receive the newsletter and mailings if I check here ___.

Enclosed is my contribution of $25.00 (basic membership).

I'd like to contribute ___$25.00 ___$50.00 ___$100.00 more just to help out.

I'd like to make a monthly pledge. Please send a reminder each month to send my supporting commitment of $_____. Contributions are deductible to the full extent of the law.

Please PRINT clearly:

Name: ____________________________________________
Mailing address: ____________________________________________
City: ___________________ State: ___________ Zip: ________________________
Signature: ____________________________________________
Phone (home): ____________ (work): _________________________
I got this copy of NorthView: ___ from a friend, ___ at a bookstore, ___ at a bar, ___ from a business.

I want to show my support for the lesbigay community in other ways: (Please circle.)

NorthView: typing, editing, reporting, graphics, goffering
Potlucks: setup, cleanup, monthly programs
HelpLine: telephone volunteer, training, potlucks, resource manual, volunteer scheduling
National Coming Out Day Dinner/Dance: organize speak out, organize dance
Lesbigay Pride Picnic: organization, publicity, setup, cleanup, entertainment, vendors, permits
Fund-raising: progressive dinners, bake sales, dinner/dances, yard sales, picnics, other